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FROM

James T. Brown
New York City

BETA LETTERS

Being Correspondence Passing Between Chapters or Members
of the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity, 1839-1884

SELECTED AND EDITED BY

WILLIAM RAIMOND BAIRD

Stevens '78, Columbia '82

Author of "American College Fraternities," "Handbook of Beta Theta Pi,"
"Betas of Achievement," "Forty Years of Fraternity Legislation"

PUBLISHED BY THE FRATERNITY

**The Beta Publishing Co., New York
1918**

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James F. Rogers,
New York State

IN GRATEFUL MEMORY
BETA THETA PI
DEDICATES THIS VOLUME TO
WILLIAM RAIMOND BAIRD
FRATERNITY HISTORIAN
FRATERNITY BIOGRAPHER
FRATERNITY EDITOR
FRIEND COUNSELOR BROTHER

Preface

At an early date the laws of Beta Theta Pi required that letters describing the condition and prospects of the several chapters should be interchanged among them semiannually. So far as the periodicity of the matter was concerned, the custom was more honored in the breach than in the observance, but a correspondence nevertheless sprung up actively between the different chapters and was carried on until about the year 1884, when the requirement to print the semiannual reports which had been adopted by legislation some three or four years previous being generally complied with, the custom of private correspondence between the chapters practically ceased, and since then its place has been taken by the letters contributed frequently to *The Beta Theta Pi* in which they have been printed.

The old letters, as can readily be understood, contain much material useful in understanding the history of the fraternity. And from time to time, as they have been discovered in the archives of the different chapters, some of them have been printed in the magazine. The number of letters available, however, has with the progress of time, steadily become less. Some of the older chapters have become inactive and their archives have become lost, chapter houses have been burned, and old records and correspondence with them, until the authorities of the fraternity felt that if the invaluable material remaining were to be preserved, it was necessary that all of such letters should be collected in, selected, edited and printed. And the task was entrusted to the undersigned.

When it was sought to gather together the letters, they were found to be painfully few. Outside of the letters which had been printed in the magazine, and which consisted of a collection preserved by the Miami chapter and the correspondence of the Cincinnati chapter discovered by the grandson of Stanley Matthews a few years since, the letters available were collections which were found in the archives of the Hanover, Ohio and Westminster chapters, a small lot which had been preserved by the personal representatives of Roger Williams of the Miami chapter, and a collection of letters mainly written to the Michigan chapter which had come into the possession of Milton Saylor. In addition there

were a few stray letters from other sources. Small as the quantity of material is, it throws a strong light upon the conditions of the fraternity during the first forty or forty-five years of its existence and clears up many obscure points in its history.

The preparation of the letters for publication has been in many respects a difficult task. Dozens of them were not dated, many were not signed, and many were illegible from abuse and difficult to decipher. Frequently the date and source of a letter could be learned only from obscure internal indications, and involved prolonged study and research. Almost every letter begins with an apology and ends with an expression of good wishes. In most cases these have been omitted. The date lines have been simplified and where it has been possible to ascertain them, the names of the sender and receiver have been used as captions for the letters and the salutations and signatures have been omitted.

Notes have been added to the letters in cases where it was thought that they were needed or desirable to elucidate their contents to the modern reader. It may be thought by some that the liberality in providing notes has been excessive, but the number of Betas who are familiar with the conditions surrounding the writing of these letters is steadily growing less and as this book is prepared for the Betas of the future as well as the Betas of the present, it was felt that liberality in this direction was excusable.

For instance, the writer is one of the few living persons who was well acquainted with John Reily Knox, the founder of the fraternity, and who corresponded with Samuel T. Marshall, his fellow worker. Marshall stated to the writer that in a fit of patriotic enthusiasm he dated the original constitution of the fraternity as of July 4th, 1839, when actually it was not prepared until later and probably the first week in August of that year, a simple explanation of a confusing situation which bothered everybody attempting to delve into the history of the fraternity for many years, and which could never have been cleared up except for the personal communication with the writer referred to.

Dated, South Orange, New Jersey,

May 1st, 1917.

WILLIAM RAIMOND BAIRD,
Stevens '78, Columbia '82.

NOTE. The date, written by Mr. Baird as the prospective time of publication, is kept. Mr. Baird died at six o'clock on the morning of March 15, 1917. By order of the Board of Trustees of Beta Theta Pi the editorial work has been completed by Francis W. Shepardson, Denison, '82, and George M. Chandler, Michigan, '98.

The Beta Letter Book

Introduction.

Beta Theta Pi was organized in August, 1839, by a group of eight young men then students at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. It was the intention of the founders, led by John Reily Knox and Samuel T. Marshall, to found an association of young men of intellectual ability, which should have branches, or chapters, located at colleges, or in other places where such young men could be found, and who should endeavor to improve themselves by intellectual work and at the same time cultivate a friendly and fraternal sentiment, purposely restricting membership to small numbers and selected persons who would feel able, by reason of the intellectual competency of the men thus secured, and their close association and the cultivation of their fraternal sentiments, to place implicit confidence in each other.

They made the association a secret society, although what secrets they possessed beyond the esoteric meaning of their motto, no one has been able to learn, and in fact in common with similar associations the word "secret" was not aptly applied to their organization because the only secrecy involved could more properly be termed "privacy" as they desired to meet and discuss matters of mutual interest without the intrusion of outsiders. The idea of this association seems now to have been a sentimental dream. Nevertheless, it was a dream which has influenced the minds of thousands of young men and has led to noble emulation in intellectual endeavor, the eradication of selfishness, the cultivation of the subordination of self to associated effort for a worthy end, and the satisfaction of the desire inherent in all youth for friendly companionship with persons of their own age.

At the time Beta Theta Pi was organized, the number of colleges in the United States was small, most of them had few students, and the requirements for admission and graduation were not very severe. The college secret societies of the type of Beta Theta Pi then existing were five in number, namely, *Kappa Alpha*

having chapters at Union and Williams, *Delta Phi* at Union and Brown, *Psi Upsilon* at Union and New York University, *Sigma Phi* at Union, Williams, Hamilton and New York University, and *Alpha Delta Phi* at Hamilton, Miami, New York University, Columbia, Yale, Amherst, Brown and Harvard. There were local societies at Wesleyan, Trinity (Conn.), and the University of Vermont.

From the first it was intended that Beta Theta Pi should be a widespread national organization, and chapters or branches were speedily established as follows: At Cincinnati, April 8th, 1840; Western Reserve College, Hudson, Ohio, August 9, 1841; Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, November 9, 1841; Transylvania University, Lexington, Ky., January 31st, 1842; and Jefferson College, Canonsburg, Pa., June 1st, 1842. It is not precisely known whether these chapters at the time of their establishment were given designating Greek letter names or not, but if they had been so designated, their proper order would have been as follows: Alpha—Miami; Beta—Cincinnati; Gamma—Western Reserve; Delta—Ohio; Epsilon—Transylvania; Zeta—Jefferson. At the time of the organization of the fraternity a constitution was adopted, but it was soon found to be inadequate for an organization having more than one chapter and in 1840 a new constitution was adopted which provided in brief for a triennial convention of delegates from the different chapters which should be the legislative body of the association. It may be said briefly that there was a special convention held in 1847, triennials in 1848, 1851 and 1854, biennials in 1856, 1858, 1860 and 1864, and annual conventions since.

At the convention of 1847, a system of government was devised called the Presiding Chapter System, the enactment providing that there should be a

“Presiding Chapter chosen at each convention with no legislative power, which should be the depository of information regarding the chapters, to which all propositions regarding the actions of the association should be submitted and by which the decisions of the chapters should be obtained and transmitted and which should be the centre of all business correspondence.”

This system existed down to 1879 or for a period of more

than thirty years. No treasury was provided for. No means were provided to meet the expenses of the administration of the fraternity government, no provision was made for the keeping of correspondence nor for the transmission of facts from one Presiding Chapter to another nor for any continuity whatever in the management of the fraternity's affairs.

The Presiding Chapter was composed of course of undergraduate students. They were boys without as yet any of the great experiences of life, and except for the fact that some few of them were working their way through college and sustaining themselves by the result of their own exertions, they were free from cares and responsibilities, and had all of the enthusiasm, generous impulses, and absolute incompetency of youth. Each Presiding Chapter in turn felt at the beginning of its term of office, a sense of responsibility which soon waned and became a nullity by the end of the term. There was no system of inspection of the chapters, no visiting from one to the other, and a complete lack of social intercourse between them except such as obtained through the correspondence to which this book is devoted. Naturally such boys had little time and no aptitude for administrative work. The only approach to an administrative system was the custom which finally obtained of dividing up correspondence with the several chapters among the members of the presiding chapter and so keeping up some semblance of order and continuity of communication.

During the entire time referred to, until this system was superseded, there was no usual means for the ready duplication of written matter. The minutes of the conventions and all other communications had to be laboriously copied out in longhand, subject to the innumerable errors inherent in such a method.

For convenience in using this book, the following list of presiding chapters is given, with the terms of their incumbency :

1847-48—A—Miami	1868-69—H—Knox
1848-51—B—Western Reserve	1869-70—O—Virginia
1851-54—F—Jefferson	1870-71—II—Indiana
1854-56—Δ—DePauw	1871-72—P—Washington & Lee
1856-60—Z—Hampden-Sidney	1872-73—T—Wabash
1860-64—Θ—Ohio Wesleyan	1873-75—AA—Monmouth
1864-65—A—Michigan	1875-76—Δ—De Pauw

1865-66—I—Hanover

1876-77—A—Michigan

1866-67—K—Ohio

1877-78—AA—Wooster

1867-68—M—Cumberland

1878-79—AT—Wittenberg

Very soon after the organization of the fraternity, if it was not contemporary with such organization, the chapters adopted Greek names, the intention being that they should be named in the alphabetical order of their establishment. But some of the chapters becoming inactive under the loose system of administration above referred to, prior to the convention of 1847, that body rearranged the roll, and such a rearrangement was several times repeated and will be found mentioned in detail in the notes accompanying the letters.

Attention should be called to the names of some of the colleges which are apt to cause confusion. The college now known as Washington & Jefferson College, at Washington, Pa., was formed by the union of Jefferson College at Canonsburg, Pa., and Washington College at Washington, Pa., both Presbyterian Colleges, located about seven miles apart, and in each of which the fraternity had a chapter. In addition, the Rho chapter was at Washington College, Lexington, Va., which subsequently became Washington & Lee University, and the Alpha Iota chapter is located at Washington University, St. Louis, Mo., while Beta Omega established in 1901, is at the State University of Washington, at Seattle, Washington, which must not itself be confounded with Washington State College, Pullman, Washington.

Western Reserve University was originally called Western Reserve College and located at Hudson, Ohio. When it was moved to Cleveland, its present location, it was enlarged and called Western Reserve University and comprises several professional schools, in addition to the original undergraduate department, which is called Adelbert College. Miami University at Oxford and Ohio University at Athens, Ohio, are both supported in part by the State of Ohio and the latter was colloquially called for many years the University of Ohio. It should not be confounded with Ohio State University at Columbus, Ohio, where the Theta Delta chapter is located.

The official designation of Princeton was "The College of New Jersey," but on account of its location at Princeton, New

Jersey, it was almost universally called Princeton and this name was finally officially adopted for it. Illinois College, at Jacksonville, Ill., should not be confounded with the University of Illinois, located at Champaign and Urbana, Ill., and which for years was called the Illinois Industrial University. The South Carolina College was located at Columbia, S. C., and the University of Missouri is located at Columbia, Mo. Colloquially each of these institutions have been referred to as Columbia, and they must neither of them be confounded with Columbia University located at New York City. Cornell University at Ithaca, N. Y., where the Beta Delta chapter is located, should not be confused with Cornell College at Mt. Vernon, Iowa, from which an application for a charter was received in the late sixties. Ohio Wesleyan at Delaware, Ohio, was frequently called "Wesleyan" in correspondence emanating from the central western states and must not be confused with Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn., or Iowa Wesleyan at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

The University of Cincinnati, where the Beta Nu chapter is located, is an entirely different institution from Cincinnati College, which only survives in its law department. The University of Chicago has no real connection, as at present organized, with the University of Chicago at which a chapter was established in 1868, but most of the fraternity chapters at the newer institution consider themselves the legitimate successors of the older chapters at the same place.

DePauw University was called Indiana Asbury University down to 1881—Centre College was united with Central University, both Presbyterian institutions, and is now known as Centre College, of Central University. Denison University was for a time called Granville College—and Butler College was called Northwestern Christian University.

During all of the period treated of in the letters which are contained herein there was no actual well settled policy concerning any matter of fraternity administration. Each chapter was large or small in numbers as suited its whims or convenience. Under a fanciful notion that one class of a college contained ample fraternity "material" and another did not, the delegations in a chapter from successive classes might number anywhere from fifteen to one. A chapter of from six to nine was considered to be strong and prosperous, and a not infrequent number was three

or four. The campaign for members continued during the entire college year and related to all classes. In other words, the admission of members was conducted at haphazard and without any regard for anything but mere local and temporary expediency, and a fancied ability to detect "Beta material."

Intercollegiate activities did not really exist prior to 1874. Consequently there was little intercourse between different chapters due to such cause and the activities of the students in each college were largely centered about the doings of its literary societies. In each college there were usually two such societies and offices in them, and the desire to act as their representatives in debates, and at times of celebrations of anniversaries and the like, were the things which governed the college politics of the time. In many colleges the chapters did not disclose their existence, but ran *sub rosa* and thus were enabled secretly to exercise power and influence which they could not have exercised in the open.

Singular to say under such conditions Beta Theta Pi developed a recognizable type of member; as Willis O. Robb once said:

"Again, the Beta is distinguishable and distinguished from all other kinds of fraternity men whatsoever by just a little warmer and stronger, just a little tenderer and more enduring fraternity feeling than any of them can attain to. For it was always so. I do not in the least know how it happened, nor why it persisted after it happened, but a long time ago there came into Beta Theta Pi a fraternity spirit that was, and is, and apparently will continue to be, unique. We know it, who are inside, and they see and record it who are outside the Beta pale. Whether young or old, in college or out, from the small school or the great university, we are conscious of a heritage of genuine fraternalism that has not been vouchsafed in like measure—I say it deliberately—to any other of the great college fraternities. And we cannot doubt that in this, as in other respects, our 'future will copy fair our past,' and that in the world of fifty years from now, as in that of years ago—as in that that lies around us today—the first mark of a Beta will be his Beta spirit."

In the letters which follow, there are exhibited all of the faults of administration or lack of it which obtained throughout the fraternity during the period to which they relate. And the letters must be read with the surrounding circumstances constantly in mind. They are full of apologies for not conducting the correspondence more fully and more competently, they are sophomorical in style, turgid in expression and show lack of mature judgment. They exhibit constant animosity toward other college secret societies, and are decidedly ungenerous in their estimate of the qualities and characteristics of such societies. If the catalogues of these other societies are examined it will not infrequently be found that so far as worldly success has been attained, their members have done better than the Betas who were referring to them so contemptuously. They are full of repetitions of lists of members and of corresponding secretaries, and display in a singularly clear way the utter inefficiency of the presiding chapter system.

It has been a matter of wonder to the workers in the fraternity of recent years that the founders and those who from time to time showed the most enthusiastic interest in its welfare, did not exercise a continual and personal supervision over its affairs, such as is now performed by more than a score of members, but the explanation is simple when the disjointed and intermittent system of administration of the fraternity prior to 1879 is taken into account and its complete absence of a treasury is considered. There was no money to work with and it was impossible to evince a continuity of interest in an organization the executive of which comprised a series of chapters located at widely separated places and consisting of boys of immature judgment and varying degrees of incompetency. The alumni had no power and therefore no influence. They loved the fraternity but regarded it as an affair of their boyhood until in the early seventies it began to dawn upon some of them what a wonderful field the fraternity afforded for constructive work, and it was then that Ransom, Seaman, Brouse, Terrell, Robb, Walker and others began to guide the fraternity's future and to conduct it to its rightful heritage of influence and power.

One of the things to be observed in reading these letters is what might be termed their curious concentration upon the mat-

ters of immediate interest to the writers of the letters and their lack of reference to momentous events simultaneously happening. For instance, letters written during the period of the war with Mexico seldom mention it although one of the members of the Transylvania chapter, Humphrey Marshall, was one of its brilliant heroes, and a member of the Jefferson chapter was the postmaster in Mexico City during the period of American occupation, and members of several chapters were in the invading army. Also the Civil War is scarcely referred to, although some of the chapters in the North, like the Western Reserve chapter, practically enlisted in the Union Army in a body, and many of the Southern chapters did the same in the Confederate service. The Southern chapters after the war resumed their places in the ranks with scant reference to the causes of their suspension and inactivity.

The Betas in the older letters refer to themselves as "Greeks" and call all persons outside of the fraternity Barbarians, whether they belong to other Greek letter societies or not. This is mentioned because it is in contradistinction to the more modern nomenclature in which the term "Greek" is applied to the membership of all the undergraduate Greek Letter societies.

At first Alpha Delta Phi was the chief rival of Beta Theta Pi as they met at Miami, Cincinnati and Western Reserve. This fraternity was regarded with animosity but respect until it succeeded in seducing from their allegiance the Williams and Brown chapters when it became a real enemy and was cordially hated and despised. After the fraternity had been concentrated in the central western states, Phi Kappa Psi and Phi Gamma Delta seem to have been its chief rivals, as reference to other societies is infrequent, although occasional reference is made to Sigma Chi and Delta Tau Delta.

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The Beta Letter Book

CHAPTER I

FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE FRATERNITY TO THE CONVENTION OF 1842

RECOLLECTIONS OF 1839—JOHN REILY KNOX

(A letter to the Cincinnati Convention of 1873-4.)

I am asked for some reminiscences of the early days—the pre-historic time of Beta Theta Pi—the meetings of which no record was kept, and which live only in the recollections of two or three, who are now getting oldish men with grizzled beards and whitened hair, what there is of it; and have been earnestly pressed by some of the younger brethren to tell the story of its origin. To this I might well say, "Story! God bless you, I have none to tell," but I can give you some recollections of 1839, and of those who were present at and took part in the organization of the Brotherhood.

It was, then, in January, 1839, when I was in my senior year at Miami University, that the idea first occurred to me of the organization of our Society. Circumstances had made me somewhat prominent in a rather bitter fight in the Literary Association, of which I was a member, against the Society of the Alpha Delta Phi, and in which, though successful, I had learned to admire the compact organization and the *esprit de corps* of its members. About the same time, too, I came across an old book, no copy of which I have seen since, and the name of which I have forgotten, giving an account of some of the secret organizations of the Middle Ages. Their knightly vows and pledges were given, with some curious sketches of their inside working and their secret history; and I was, I might almost say, of course, very much interested in these Ancient Brotherhoods.

Being, as I have said, already impressed with the force that lies in compact organization, an idea that had been a subject of conversation between two or three of us grew on me, and I went

to sketching out a plan, the constitution and obligations for a new society. While engaged in doing this, I had repeated conferences with the gentleman whose name stands second on the roll, S. T. Marshall, now of Iowa. He was considerably my senior, anxious that something of the kind should be got up, and urged on the enterprise. The selection of the name being considered an important matter, several combinations were canvassed. Greek it must be, of course, and while desiring mainly that there should be significance in either the motto or the independent words adopted, we preferred that finally selected, as being not only pleasant to the ear, but reasonably significant of the objects of the infant society.

The leading motive of uniting a few choice spirits in closer bonds for improvement in literary exercises and the cultivation of social life, but chiefly the latter, was probably the principal *raison d'être* of the new organization. Mutual support and assistance, absolute faith and confidence in each other, and progress in knowledge and scholarship were the fundamental ideas on which we built. With a view to the cultivation of intimate social relations, it was, for instance, originally provided that no more than nine members should at one time be in attendance at the same college; and, as an illustration of the closeness of the tie which was to bind us, the original obligation taken by the neophyte pledged him to his brothers in the Order, that "their friends should be his friends, and their enemies his enemies."

But at a very early day, the introduction of a more christian element into the organization led to a modification of this rather heathenish provision. The number, nine, too, was soon dropped, leaving the Order free to select good fellows wherever, and in whatever number, it might find them—and the three stars were no longer indicative of the limited membership (as the root of the mysterious nine,) but simply remained as the heavenly representatives of the three words of the Order. Other changes have been made in our Constitution, and I have no doubt they are all improvements, for have we not among us some very admirable constitution makers, lights of Con. Con.?¹ but these were all the

1. J. Cal Hanna, for a long time General Secretary of the fraternity, suggests that the expression "Con. Con." refers to the constitutional convention of Ohio which was in session at the time this letter was written and which was familiarly called the *Con. Con.*

changes made during my active connection with Alpha Chapter.

The members present at the first meeting of the Order were Brothers Marshall, Linton, Smith, J. G. (poor Leb., as good a fellow as ever lived, he died young,) and myself. The meeting was held in a room occupied at the time by Taylor Marshall, in that part of the College buildings at Oxford, known as "the old wing." The venerable pile was abated as a nuisance, and reduced to its original elements a few years ago, under the active supervision of that chief of the Goths and Vandals, Bro. Jhn W. Herron,² in his capacity of Chairman of the Committee on Public Grounds and Buildings of the Board of Trustees of Miami University. At that meeting I administered the obligation to the members present, but by inadvertence no one qualified me in turn, so that I am scarcely able to say, though my name has always been borne on the catalogue, that I am entitled to the privileges of those who wear the badge and bear the name of Beta Theta Pi.

Soon after this first meeting, Charley Hardin,³ John Duncan and M. C. Ryan, good and true fellows, were added to the faithful band, and many a pleasant and profitable meeting we had in the early spring and on into the summer of that year of grace, 1839, our commencement at that time being in August, either the first or second Thursday, I am not sure which. At what time Bros. Johnson and Gordon⁴ were added to make up the full number, I do not now recollect. I have been under the impression, too, that Brother O. S. Witherby,⁵ then of Hamilton, but now, if living, of San Diego, California, was one of the first nine; but in this I am probably mistaken, as his name stands the thirteenth

2. John W. Herron, Miami '45, was a member of the Board of Trustees of Miami University from 1860 to 1912 and was president of the Board from 1880 until 1912. He was president of the fraternity from 1879 to 1893.

3. The "Charley Hardin" referred to was Charles H. Hardin, Miami '41, who afterwards became Governor of Missouri and who was the founder of the Hardin Female College at Mexico, Missouri.

4. Ryan and Gordon were signers of the original constitution and were present at the meeting of August 9th, 1839, the first formal meeting of the Alpha Chapter, but in the minutes of that meeting, it is stated that they met August 8th, 1839 "agreeably to previous arrangement." Probably the meeting at which this arrangement was made was the earlier meeting referred to by Brother Knox in the preceding paragraph. Johnson was not admitted until November 14th, 1839.

5. O. S. Witherby was not admitted until some time later. His is the thirteenth name on the roll as Brother Knox correctly says.

in the catalogue. But all these matters, are they not written in the book of the Chronicles of the Order?

I have thus, brethren, very briefly and in a gossipy way given you some of my recollections of the early days of Beta Theta Pi. Like reminiscences generally, they are somewhat egotistic, or seem so at any rate. My only excuse is that I have been writing of things with which I was personally connected, "*magna pars fui*," and so could not well avoid the use of the personal pronoun. Though somewhat intimately connected, as has been said, with the early days of our Order that has gone on so prosperously for thirty-five years, half the period of man's allotted time on earth, yet since then I have had practically but little connection with it—and thus, though largely responsible for its start in life, I can claim no credit for the magnificent growth it has made. It was only with its small beginnings that I had anything to do. But it is needless to say that I take pride in the prosperity of Beta, and have faith in her future. Greatly as her membership has extended, I have what the Frenchman calls "the grand confidence" in them all.

Of the earlier members of the Order, who are referred to by name in this hurried sketch, all but two are still living. Col. Ryan was gathered to his fathers in the early days of the rebellion; and J. G. Smith, (Jimmy George, as his friends loved to call him,) passed from earth soon after his graduation. I don't know that any of the others have particularly distinguished themselves in life, but then it is some consolation that they have never disgraced themselves or done any decidedly mean things, so far as the world knows, at any rate. We were a pleasant company, pleasant to each other at least, and I should greatly like to meet brethren. Pray remember them when you drink to the absent.⁶

6. From the minutes of the Alpha Chapter which have been preserved, it does not appear that Knox ever met with the chapter actively after the meeting of August 8th. That meeting was adjourned to the second Thursday of October (October 10, 1839) and those present at October meeting were Duncan, Gordon, Marshall, Hardin and Smith. Commencement at Miami in the days of the founders occurred in the second week of August, the next college year opening in October.

FROM ALEXANDER PADDACK⁷ AT MIAMI TO HENRY SNOW
AT CINCINNATI

MIAMI UNIVERSITY, OXFORD,

May 18, 1840.

Enclosed I send you the Resolution of our association authorizing the Committee to establish the Chapter in Cincinnati; together with the proceedings of the meeting upon the organization of it, which it will be necessary I presume to place in the commencement of your minutes, to show by whom and by what authority the Chapter was established.

You must pardon our negligence in not attending to the matter sooner, as there was no pressing need of it and I thought there would have been other matters to communicate to you it has been delayed till now.

Our friends here were much pleased to hear our report of the proceedings in the city. I received a letter last week from Friend Beard in which he gave me an account of your first meeting and all things that occurred thereat. You may rest assured that the perusal of it did me good; for you seem to have entered into the spirit of the thing so warmly that I wish myself possessed of ubiquity that I might be with you and take part in your pleasures.

Let me just say one thing to you, and that is to enjoin and impress upon your associates the great necessity of preserving the utmost secrecy of the whole affair—not but it is their firm determination so to do—but you know they do not feel the pressing and imperative necessity of it, as we do here and by some thoughtless act or expression may excite curiosity or suspicion which it would be well not to be. Should the existence of it be known here, it would completely excite and make outcasts of us all, and in a great degree break the thing up.

I have written to Beard and given him some more particular information on matters and things.

Friend Smith wishes to be remembered to you and please remember us all to your friends.

I should be much pleased to hear from you shortly.

ALEX. PADDACK.

7. Alexander Paddack, who was very active in the earlier days of the fraternity, was a lawyer of eminence in Cincinnati and during the Civil War was probate judge of Hamilton County, Ohio.

MIAMI UNIVERSITY, OXFORD, March 11th, 1840.

At a meeting of the Beta Theta Pi Association held this evening it was on motion, "*Resolved*, That Alex Paddock together with any other member or members be constituted a committee to establish a Branch or Chapter of the Association in the City of Cincinnati."⁸

JNO. H. DUNCAN, *President*,

JAMES G. SMITH, *Secretary*.

CINCINNATI, April 8th, 1840.

The committee appointed by the above resolution met. Mr. T. B. Gordon in the Chair and Alex. Paddock acting as Secretary.

The following gentlemen who had accepted the tender of membership, *viz.*, Messrs. Henry Snow, Stephen Gano, Henry Beard,⁹ and Louis P. Harvey,¹⁰ were duly initiated as regular members of the Beta Theta Pi Association and signed the Constitution.

8. It will be noted that this chapter was to be located in the "City of Cincinnati." It is a little uncertain at this time whether or not it was intended to attach this chapter to any institution of learning or not. For many years, it was thought that the chapter was connected with Cincinnati College. In the catalog of 1899, the following note by J. Cal Hanna probably gives the exact facts with respect to the matter:

"The second chapter of the Beta Theta Pi, called Beta, was founded in Cincinnati, April 8, 1840. It was not connected with any school or college. Its members, however, were young men and college men. Several of these were undergraduates in the academic department of Cincinnati College, which was abolished within a few years, no department of this college now remaining except that of the law. One was in Woodward College. Several were from the Miami chapter, and several were Kenyon students. Formal records of the chapter exist down to October 12, 1844. The convention of 1847 declared the chapter extinct."

Alpha Delta Phi, which was for a number of years the principal rival of the Betas at Miami, their Miami chapter having been established in 1833, placed a chapter in Cincinnati in 1840, which was presumably connected with Cincinnati College. This chapter was given a place in the Alpha Delta Phi catalogues of 1840, 1845, 1848, 1851 and 1854. It was then omitted from the regular chapter roll of Alpha Delta Phi. Its members were Charles D. L. Brush, William Davis Gallagher, Charles Pinckney James, Joseph Longworth, Jordon A. Pugh and James H. Perkins. In recent years these names have been listed on the roll of the Miami chapter of Alpha Delta Phi, but they never attended Miami.

9. Henry Beard was a corporation lawyer, who resided in Washington, D. C., for many years, and who attained eminence as a practitioner before the Supreme Court of the United States, being counsel in many corporation and patent causes of prime importance.

10. Louis P. Harvey moved to Wisconsin and became its governor. He was drowned while on a visit of inspection to the Wisconsin Troops in Tennessee in 1862.

Some remarks were addressed by the Chair to the new members welcoming them into the association and further explanatory of its object.

The chapter was then organized by the election of Henry Snow, President, and Stephen Gano, Secretary.

T. B. GORDON,
ALEX. PADDACK,
A. W. HAMILTON,

Committee.

FROM WHITNEY AND MARSHALL AT MIAMI TO HENRY SNOW
AT CINCINNATI

OXFORD, OHIO, June 8th, 1840.

Our association after maturely considering in what manner we should bind the Jeweler to secrecy have decided upon the following method:

*"Resolved, That he (the Jeweler) be required to demand of every applicant for a badge a particular sign which shall consist of the repetition or signature of the word * * * the third in our motto."*

We thought this to be as good as any method we could devise for preventing imposition. In a written communication the word will have to be signed and in a verbal merely repeated.

Our association has considerable business on hand in making such laws and regulations as are necessary to render it both permanent and useful. Your Chapter will be duly informed of every regulation which may be made to apply to each Chapter.

We are all well and prosperous, hoping that you are the same we are yours with very great regards, in haste,

JOHN WHITNEY,
S. T. MARSHALL,

Committee.

FROM WHITNEY AND MARSHALL AT MIAMI TO HENRY SNOW
AT CINCINNATI

OXFORD, OHIO, June 12th, 1840.

You doubtless received a letter a few days since from us in relation to some measures that were adopted by our common association for the prevention of imposition. The method we then proposed we think will *effectually* prevent *imposition*, whilst at the same time it is insufficient to insure secrecy. Consequently we thought it advisable, in addition to the former plan, to pro-

hibit the jeweler from showing to anyone but a member the die with which he casts or stamps the badge. This is rendered necessary from the fact that he is fond of showing it in order to display his workmanship. If he is permitted to do this it will be utterly impossible to prevent a disclosure, and this we are desirous of preventing at least for a few years. With this addition the whole resolution would run something like this:

*"Resolved, That the jeweler be prohibited from showing to any individual (members excepted) the die with which he stamps the badge, or in any manner make known the existence of our association, and that he be required to demand of every applicant for a badge the repetition or signature of the word * * * etc."*

This method of obtaining a badge we thought as good as any that we could think of at present. We at first contemplated leaving the whole thing to your Chapter—that is make it the medium or means through or by which others might obtain a badge. But in course of time the members at a distance would lose the names of the members of your Chapter and consequently be unable to act through you. The present arrangement, however, is merely temporary and if we see proper will alter it at the end of this session at which we expect as many of you to be present as is possible, in connection with the members who have graduated. We propose then in a full assembly to consider in what respects the constitution is defective and make such alterations and additions as we may deem necessary for the good of our association. We hope that you will all be here on that occasion to make propositions or suggestions that you may think advisable. All regulations entered into now may consequently be deemed temporary. We have already several things laid over for our general meeting, *vis.*, the naming of the different Chapters, the relation they sustain to the parent head, or Chapter, etc. We hope you will think about these and be prepared to give us your opinion.

We leave it for you to make the above arrangement with the jeweler and bind him as strongly as possible to its strict observance.

Hoping to see you soon, we are yours with very great esteem.

JOHN WHITNEY,
S. T. MARSHALL,
Committee.

PADDACK AND OTHERS, COMMITTEE AT MIAMI TO SNOW
AT CINCINNATI

MIAMI UNIVERSITY, OXFORD, Dec. 1st, 1840.

We have been appointed a Committee to correspond with you in regard to the *Pins* of the Beta Theta Pi. Our chapter here desires to have it altered in some respects. As it is now, you are aware that the face of it presents but one and the same appearance, that is, the ground work and the characters are of the same color, so that the latter are not easily distinguished. The alteration wished for is simply that the Pin be so constructed that there be a contrast between the ground work and the characters, for instance enameled work for the former and white for the latter or any other plan that may be suggested. We wish you to consult with the jeweler, Mr. Carley, upon the matter and report to us as early as practicable, whatever plans or suggestions he may propose. We are anxious that something should be done if possible and at the same time we want an elegant article.

Yours respectfully,

JAMES LONG,
A. W. HAMILTON,
ALEX. PADDACK,
Committee.

ALEX PADDACK AT MIAMI TO HENRY SNOW AT CINCINNATI

OXFORD, O., Dec. 1st, 1840.

After having prepared the first page of this sheet to transmit to you by mail, I heard that our friend Whitney intended to make a visit to the Queen City on the morrow. The letter of the Committee would be therefore useless, as he could consult with you upon the matter, yet as I had set my mind upon writing to you concluded to let it remain, and add something further personally from myself. Our Chapter meets tonight to consider the constitution and I presume will adopt it and Mr. Whitney will take a copy of it with him for your consideration. You will perceive that considerable alteration has been made from the old constitution and I think greatly for the better. As to the

Pin matter, I hope something may be done, as little imitation however of Alpha Delta Phi as possible.¹¹ In regard to College matters I hear that a Dr. Junkin has accepted our Presidency and that Armstrong the Professor of Mathematics, has resigned his place. We have not yet received your acceptance of speakership of our Graduates. Why do you delay? A new election has been held in the Hall since you received the notification from Gilchrist. Long is Corresponding Secretary now. I have had a letter from Scott since I received yours. He seems to have been very well pleased with the Beta Theta Pi arrangements. Write to me by Whitney and let me know what you are doing and intend doing. Tell Mitchell I congratulate himself and myself on account of our new relationship—tell him too he must write to me.

I would be glad if you could get for me Telford's speech before the Alpha Delta Phi and forward it and if possible secure me one of Eells¹² speech before the same at New Haven. I would give anything most for it. Remember me to Gano and other friends.

ALEX PADDACK AT MIAMI TO HENRY SNOW AT CINCINNATI.

OXFORD, OHIO, Jan. 14, 1841.

Your letter came to hand this morning. I have consulted with the members and we all seem to agree in preferring the *black* enamel for the *pin*. Such then is *our* decision. We had a meet-

11. The badge of Alpha Delta Phi at the time referred to was an oblong shield with straight sides and outwardly curving corners and displayed a crescent above which was a star and beneath which was the date 1832. On the crescent were the Greek Letters $\Delta \Delta \Phi$. The original Beta Theta Pi badge was exactly the same size as that of Alpha Delta Phi and had the same straight sides but the corners were curved inwardly instead of outwardly. There was displayed on the face of the badge a crescent above which were three stars and below which was the name of the fraternity in Greek, $\beta \theta \pi$ and below that the date of the foundation of the fraternity in Greek, so that the resemblance to the Alpha Delta Phi badge in size, style and arrangement of the material was striking. The surface was at first plain gold, then black enamel, and very soon the crescent was changed to a wreath and diamond, these changes serving to differentiate it from the badge of Alpha Delta Phi and to avoid confusion between them.

12. This refers to a speech made by Charles L. Telford, a lawyer in Cincinnati, before the Alpha Delta Phi society at Miami, and to a speech by Samuel Eells, the founder of the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity, at its convention in New Haven, Connecticut, held August 13th, 1839.

ing last night to consider the Constitution amended from your hands. With one or two exceptions your draft was adopted. A committee will shortly make you acquainted with our doings.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION OF 1841 ¹⁸

13. In *Forty Years of Fraternity Legislation*, the first constitution, namely that of 1839, is printed in full, and also a second constitution which was probably adopted at the time of the establishment of the Ohio chapter in 1840. The constitution printed in the text seems to have been a proposed constitution submitted to the Cincinnati chapter for the purpose of getting their views as to its amendment.

Preamble—Believing everything which tends to the development of intellect and the refinement of feeling, the promotion of confidence, and the closer union of kindred hearts to be in the highest degree beneficial to society; and trusting that we shall in some degree be able to accomplish these ends, we form ourselves into an association to be governed by the following outline of policy.

ARTICLE I. SECTION 1. This association shall be known as the Beta Theta Pi.

SEC. 2. The motto of this association shall be * * * expressing the objects for whose promotion we have united.

ARTICLE II. This association shall be composed of chapters established in such places as may be deemed expedient by three-fourths of the existing chapters, which shall be named from their location and possess concurrent powers.

ARTICLE III. SECTION 1. The visible badge of the association shall be * * *

SEC. 2. The secret pass words of the association shall be * * * in connection with the words of the motto.

SEC. 3. The badge shall not be worn by any member while in attendance at college, nor in such places as may be deemed (by himself or other members) imprudent.

ARTICLE IV. No person shall become a member of this association, unless the chapter to which he is proposed shall express their implicit confidence in his abilities and integrity by electing him *unanimously*.

ARTICLE V. SECTION 1. The officers of each chapter shall be a President and Recorder, who shall be elected semi-annually and enter upon their respective duties at the meeting next succeeding their election, and such other subordinates as each chapter may from time to time deem proper for itself.

SEC. 2. The duties of the President shall be to preside at all meetings of the chapter; decide all points of order; expound the Constitution and By-Laws subject to an appeal to the chapter; deliver an inaugural address; and upon the admission of new members to address them upon the nature and objects of the association and such other matters as he may think proper.

SEC. 3. The duties of the Recorder shall be to keep regular minutes of the proceedings of the chapter; to take charge of all its property; and to carry on regular correspondence with the other chapters for the promotion of a regular interchange of information and sympathy.

ARTICLE VI. SECTION 1. Each chapter shall celebrate the anniversary of its foundation by the delivery of an oration and such other exercises as may be deemed suitable.

PADDACK AND OTHERS, COMMITTEE, AT MIAMI TO T. G.
MITCHELL AT CINCINNATI

OXFORD, Feb. 8, 1841.

Above you will find a copy of the Constitution as adopted by our chapter at its last meeting. You will observe by an examination of it, that with a single exception your amendments have been acquiesced in. That exception is Article 3, Section 3, where we preferred our own version to that proposed by your chapter, from this consideration, that before the wearing of the badge would be "inexpedient" the opinion of the chapter must be so expressed, this is according to your views.

Now a member may be a thousand miles from his chapter and circumstances may occur to render the wearing of his badge imprudent; yet before it would be obligatory upon him not to wear it, the chapter must take action on the case and communicate its determination to him, and before this could be done the circumstances may cease to exist. The inefficiency of your plan must be evident; according to our plan there is a *responsibility* thrown upon each individual which he is not at liberty to disregard. We observed in your draught the following was omitted and no explanation made: "The members of each chapter shall be entitled to the fellowship and confidence of all other chapters and members." Supposing it was through inadvertence that it did not appear in its place, we presume upon calling your atten-

ARTICLE VII. SECTION 1. There shall be a Triennial convention of delegates from all the chapters. Each chapter sending as many representatives as it may deem proper; but the delegation from a single chapter having but one vote in the convention.

SEC. 2. The object of the convention shall be to consider and promote the general interests of the association and to hear an oration from a speaker selected thus—a delegate from the oldest chapter to be the orator of the first convention and so on in the order of the foundation of the chapters.

SEC. 3. The proceedings of this convention shall be valid unless disapproved by one-third of the chapters.

ARTICLE VIII. This Constitution shall not be altered or amended except by the Triennial Convention; and shall be sovereign authority in all cases for which it provides; but each chapter shall have power to make its own by-laws and such other regulations as may be necessary, provided that they conflict with no article of the Constitution.

ARTICLE IX. Every person on being admitted as a member of this association shall solemnly bind himself by the following obligations, which shall be administered by the President. * * *

tion to the fact it will be inserted. It is through inadvertency too, that it does appear in the Constitution. We herewith send you its proper arrangement which will be as Section 2 to Article 4.

The article on the subject of the badge you will observe is left open yet. The matter has been given over to a Committee which has not yet reported but expects to shortly. We presume it is understood that when the badge is determined upon, the Constitution *then* will be considered as finally settled. We rejoice that our labors and discussions upon the Constitution are drawing to a close and will be gratified when our affairs which have been so long unsettled shall be finally adjusted.

If you have any further communication to make, either signifying your assent to the Constitution here sent you or any other matter it will afford us pleasure to receive it.

D. MACK,
R. W. WILLSON,
ALEX. PADDACK,
Committee.

ALEXANDER PADDACK AT MIAMI TO THOS. G. MITCHELL
AT CINCINNATI ¹⁴

OXFORD, OHIO, Feb. 11th, 1841.

On the first page you have the proceedings of the meeting when your Chapter was established, in compliance with your request.

In the first place, is the proceedings of our Chapter upon the subject, signed by the then proper Officers, and the authority under which the Committee acted.

In the next place you have the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee when the Chapter was organized.

From the very nature of the thing, these must *be* the first of your records as they give you existence.

The document, of this kind, which you say is lost, was sent to Mr. Snow last summer. If its recovery be possible 'twould be well. Since its loss *might* lead to results we *might* regret. Should it fall into the possession of *some* persons.

¹⁴ The exhibits accompanying this letter are practically the same as those which accompanied the letter of Paddack to Snow of May 18th, 1840. Mitchell evidently thought that they had been lost.

A few words upon another subject. The matter of the badge you perceive is unsettled, and you say, you "leave this to us entirely;" yet before we come to a decision upon it we should be pleased to know your views. Our Committee upon this subject are considering the matter, it consists of the same persons that send you the Constitution. We concluded on having the Pin changed from gold to black enamel, but further alterations have not been agreed upon. With the black ground and our present characters it would be an objection that the resemblance to the Alpha Delta Phi was too great.

In view of the fact that some fifteen or twenty of the brotherhood had badges of the present style with which all their feelings and associations were connected the Committee have under advisement at this time to make but a single change, which is to take away the crescent and substitute therefor a small diamond, encircled with a wreath or chaplet—so that the order will be 1st, three stars, 2d a diamond surrounded by a wreath, 3d the name, and 4th date, all upon black enamel. Now this seems to me will remove the objection of correspondence to the Alpha Delta Phi which is urged against the present arrangement and at the same time will afford a rich and beautiful badge, much superior to anything of the kind I have seen. And these characters too may be made expressive, as for instance, the diamond denoting the principle upon which we act in making selections for our chapters, receiving none but the most worthy; morally, socially and intellectually, the stars denoting high and noble aims and aspirations; and the chaplet the reward of virtuous and honorable efforts. At the same time that these symbols would be easily understood by the *initiated*, they would be equally mystic and unmeaning to the "*profanum vulgus*." The diamond will, it appears to me, show well inserted in the enamel and the whole will form a Pin which *none* need be ashamed to wear. The meanings attached to the symbols may possibly seem *rather* egotistical, but I think them simple, natural, and not strained, and the badge I consider worthy of adoption. The greatest objection perhaps to it is its cost, but as the diamond is intended to be small, the cost would not I imagine exceed \$5 more than what it is at present, and as an individual purchases but one in his life time, this should be no objection, if the Pin pleases.

I would be glad if you could make some enquiries on this point and let me know the result. I would be glad also to have the views of yourself, Snow and Gano upon this matter of the badge; and that in the course of a week or two, as we wish to report upon it at our next meeting.

If you have any different suggestions to make relative to this matter, your views would be gladly received. Please consult the Jeweler upon the cost and appearance of the Pin we propose or of one of your own proposition. In conclusion, I will urge you to let me hear from you very soon upon the *badge*, as probably the Committee will be influenced by your opinions in the report they submit and we meet again in two weeks.

I forgot to say that since I wrote Snow, we have elected and initiated the two individuals mentioned in my letter to him.

A. P.

Exhibits enclosed with the letter of Feb. 11, 1841

OXFORD, March 13, 1840.

At a meeting of the Beta Theta Pi held this evening, it was on motion "*Resolved*, That a Committee consisting of Messrs. Paddock, Hamilton and Gordon be appointed to establish a chapter of the Association in the City of Cincinnati."

J. H. DUNCAN, *President*,

J. G. SMITH, *Secretary*.

CINCINNATI, April 8, 1840.

The Committee appointed by the above Resolution met for the purpose of organizing a Chapter of the Beta Theta Pi Association in this City. Mr. Gordon took the Chair and Mr. Paddock acted as Secretary.

The following gentlemen having accepted the tender of membership, were then duly initiated, viz.: Messrs. Henry Snow, Stephen Gano, Henry Beard and Louis P. Harvey, after which they were addressed by the Chair in some appropriate remarks upon the nature of the Association and explanatory of its objects.

The Chapter then proceeded to the election of Officers which

resulted in the choice of Henry Snow, President, and Stephen Gano, Recorder.

Adjourned to meet on the 23d inst.

THOS. B. GORDON,
A. W. HAMILTON,
ALEX. PADDACK,
Committee.

JOHN WHITNEY AT MIAMI TO THOS. G. MITCHELL AT CIN-
CINNATI

OXFORD, MIAMI UNIVERSITY, March 9th, 1841.

At the last meeting of the Miami Chapter of the Beta Theta Pi, the following report relative to the form of a badge was submitted to their consideration and upon motion was adopted and made a part of the Constitution.

Art. 3rd, Sec. 1st: "The visible badge of the association shall be a breast-pin, the front of which shall be black enamel bearing first, three stars in gold, denoting the three principal objects of the association expressed in Article 2d. 2d, a diamond encircled by a wreath in gold, the one denoting the character of the members for intellectual and moral worth; the other the reward of high aspirations, of honorable and virtuous effort. 3d, the name of the association in gold. 4th, the date of this foundation in Greek characters (and in gold). On the back two hands clasped, indicative of friendship, the name of the member who wears it, and the date of the foundation of the Chapter to which he belongs."

The above form though perhaps not entirely satisfactory is the best which we have been able to invent. Its adoption I suppose completes the constitution, and puts an end to our labors for the present. This I presume is equally pleasing to both parties. Hoping that it may all meet with your pleasure,

Our chapter also determined that the first triennial celebration shall be held in this place in August, 1842, I suppose it needs the sanction of your Chapter to make it valid.

J. W.

ENCLOSURE IN PRECEDING LETTER

To the Members of the Cincinnati Chapter of the Beta Theta Pi:

We, the undersigned, have been appointed a committee on the

part of the Miami chapter of the B Θ Π to confer with you relating to the establishment of a chapter of our association at Jefferson College, Canonsburg, Pa. The location is thought to be an excellent one from all the information that we can obtain. The object will be accomplished through the agency of H. H. Johnson, a graduate member of this Chapter, who now resides at Pittsburg, a short distance from Canonsburg. You will please act upon this and the other measures which we have communicated as soon as possible, and forward us the result of your deliberations.

JOHN WHITNEY,
JOHN OGLE,
DAVID MACK,
Committee.

JAMES LONG AT MIAMI TO THOS. G. MITCHELL AT CINCINNATI

OXFORD, O., May 12, 1841.

At a late meeting of the Beta Theta Pi in this place the propriety of establishing a chapter in Western Reserve College was taken into consideration. This chapter resolved that a chapter of the Beta Theta Pi be established at said place, provided, however, that the Cincinnati chapter concur therein.

Let us know the determination of the Cincinnati chapter as soon as possible. If you agree with us in the propriety of the measure we leave the means entirely in your hands. You are nearer the field of operation and better fitted by your knowledge and experience to do the work than green boys like us, yet in the lap of "Alma Mater."

I take this opportunity of wishing God speed to the Cincinnati branch of the Beta Theta Pi.

We have elected no new members this session. Two have been proposed yet they will probably be withdrawn. One of those proposed is while I write on trial for dismissal from college.

JAMES LONG AT MIAMI TO THOS. G. MITCHELL AT CINCINNATI

OXFORD, June 24th, 1841.

Dear Sir:

I received yours of June 1st some time since, but being taken

ill and forced to leave college I have had heretofore no opportunity of seeking the information you request in a reply.

We thought it best, from the first, to destroy all documents not absolutely necessary to the records of the Society and in pursuance of this policy, all the correspondence not entered in the short minutes we take of our proceedings, has been destroyed. Among other papers your communications have been destroyed. All I can find relative to them is, that on Nov. 12th, 1840, a Committee was appointed to send a copy of the Constitution revised to the Cincinnati Chapter; and that on Jan. 14th, 1841, the same Committee laid before the Society a communication from the Cincinnati chapter suggesting some amendments in the draft of the Constitution submitted to it. The same committee submitted a new communication to the Society from your chapter on the 6th of February following and also one at a later period in the month. It appears that all the communications were relative to the Constitution though the particular points treated in each cannot be known nor the dates of any of them except by approximations as they must have written but a few days previous to the time of our action upon them here. I remember when your letters were received a meeting was immediately called to take them into consideration, as we were anxious to settle at an early day the Constitution of the Beta Theta Pi.

I am sorry that I can give you no more accurate information on the subjects of your inquiry.

You must keep the family records better in future.

We have taken in three members since I wrote you last: W. S. Martin, John A. Collins, both of Kentucky and Daniel McCleary of Hamilton, Ohio.

We have now thirteen members in all—the flower of the University. Eight of us will graduate in August, leaving five in the chapter.

“Alphaism” is we believe rearing its head here. Two members of college were suddenly called to your city last week leaving behind them almost indubitable proof that they were going to transplant hither the germ of that once eradicated plant. It can’t flourish in our soil at this time. A new plant has exhausted the capabilities of the field and will probably be as fatal to all interlopers as the deadly nightshade. We have the advantage of them,

the preoccupancy, while they carry a lamp that lights to their own destruction.

We have the satisfaction of knowing that most of us have been selected as members of Alpha Delta, etc. We must of course decline any honors from that quarter and can in refusing the tender put in a mighty show of magnanimity.

I can add nothing more at present except to give my own and our chapter's best respects to the Cincinnati chapter.

JAMES LONG AT MIAMI TO THOS. G. MITCHELL AT CINCINNATI

OXFORD, August 2, 1841.

At a meeting of the Oxford chapter of the Beta Theta Pi held a few evenings since it was resolved (with the concurrence of the Cincinnati chapter) to establish chapters of our association at the following places, viz.: Lexington, Ky.; St. Louis, Mo.; Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa.; Virginia University, Charlottesville, Va.; and William and Mary College, Williamsburg, Va. Committees have been appointed to repair to these respective places with plenary powers to establish chapters or not as circumstances may justify.

We expect the chapter in Cincinnati to take action upon the subject of the establishment of these chapters as soon as possible, as the Committees appointed here will pass through the city at the close of next week or the beginning of the week following.

How many of the Beta of Cincinnati are coming here at our Commencement season? Come all that can and it shall be ours to make your visit agreeable. I long to see my Brother Recorder. I imagine he is a very companionable young gentleman, laying aside his official and doffing "the black cloak and long tie-wig" of the Law.

HENRY BEARD, CINCINNATI, TO STANLEY MATTHEWS AT CINCINNATI.

ZANESVILLE, OHIO,¹⁵ Nov. 11th, 1841.

I proceed to lay before you and through you before the Cin-

¹⁵ Henry Beard resided at Zanesville, Ohio, and Charles C. Gilbert and John Culbertson were fellow townsmen.

cinnati chapter of the Beta Theta Pi a report of what I have done under the appointment with which they have honored me.

On Tuesday last I had the pleasure of initiating into our order in that manner in which the constitution seemed to point out, three worthy young men. They met me in the Hall of the Philomathesian Society. The constitution and the obligations attending it were read to them, to which they all gave their cordial consent. Their names are Chas. C. Gilbert, Jr., and John Culbertson of Zanesville of the Athenean Hall and Ripley C. Hoffman of Jackson, O., of the Philomathesian Hall—all of the present Junior Class. After a few remarks they organized themselves into a chapter by electing C. C. Gilbert, President, and R. C. Hoffman, Recorder, and adjourned until Saturday at two o'clock. I left with them a copy of the constitution sent me by T. G. Mitchell when Recorder for our chapter and a letter of authority, etc., from T. S. Matthews.¹⁶

You will hear from them soon, within a week perhaps. They seem to understand the nature and appreciate the value of our association and appear to enter heartily upon its duties and privileges.

We can rejoice together in the entire success of your design. In the course of a few months they will likely enlarge their borders. With regard to those who are now initiated I have all confidence in their judgment. When they choose they will select the best. I have not thought proper to discuss the merits of some who are under consideration in this communication but shall do so in some letters of a more private nature. Gilbert¹⁷ and Culbertson were of the opinion that Hoffman was the right kind of a man. He was their first choice.

16. Thomas Stanley Matthews was a prominent lawyer in Cincinnati and successively a judge of the Common Pleas Court, a member of the Ohio Senate, United States District Attorney, Judge of the Supreme Court, United States Senator and a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. He served through the Civil War, rising to the rank of Brigadier General. It is to his care in preserving the letters written to the Cincinnati chapter that we are indebted for many of the letters in the early part of this series. They were discovered by his grandson Rev. Stanley Matthews Cleveland, Virginia '10.

17. Charles G. Gilbert had attended Yale College prior to becoming a student at Ohio University and soon after his initiation into the fraternity left college to accept an appointment to the United States Military Academy from which he graduated in 1846. He rose to be Colonel of the 17th U. S. Infantry, serving during the civil war as a major general.

Let me recommend to our chapter through you, Alphonso Taft, Attorney at Law, if he has the spirit to enter into your objects and you have a desire to extend yourselves and your influence among those but a little in advance of us in age and reputation. It is the opinion of several who know him well that he is destined to be among the very first men at your bar. When I hear from any of the members of your body I wish to hear of your success, etc.

RIPLEY C. HOFFMAN AT OHIO UNIVERSITY TO T. STANLEY
MATTHEWS AT CINCINNATI

ATHENS, OHIO, Nov. 17th, A. D., 1841.

It was with pleasure, the most gratifying too in its nature, that we learned from our much esteemed friend, Mr. Beard the existence of so praiseworthy an institution as the Beta Theta Pi. Believing the objects of this association to be not only attainable but in the greatest possible degree desirable, we hail with joy and gratitude the opportunity afforded us of giving our co-operation in attempting to bring about such a happy state of things as was doubtless anticipated by the founders of the Beta Theta Pi. Composed, as this society most unquestionably must be, of those who are ambitious of moral and mental culture, there is nothing which can possibly be better calculated to prepare us for future usefulness than that which tends to cultivate the social virtues and call into action all the finer feelings of the soul. And such we believe to be the character and object of the Beta Theta Pi.

Now that we are recognized, as we suppose, by you as a branch of this laudable compact, having compromitted ourselves to use all honorable means to aid and assist each other, we would say, now and hereafter let our aim be high and our efforts incessant.

And in doing this, laying aside all the practicable and substantial benefits which we ourselves will doubtless be heir to, indemnified by the mutual bonds of our union, may we not be stimulated by the reasonable hope of giving a new and salutary direction to the public taste?

We have, as yet, done nothing more than elect our officers and make out a code of by-laws. The Chapter will meet once in

two weeks on Monday evening. The exercises of the chapter consist of Essays, Debates, both written and extemporaneous, and orations whenever they may be deemed proper. We are but three in number, viz.: Charles C. Gilbert, Zanesville; John C. Culbertson, Zanesville; Ripley C. Hoffman, Jackson.

The chapter have thought of two or three persons, in every way, as we think, well qualified for membership, whom we would be glad to elect the first of next session or even sooner should you think it advisable.

I regret exceedingly that I have enothing more to write concerning your chapter, but its establishment is too recent to admit of much speculation.

In your answer please give us all the information you can with respect to the Beta Theta Pi, its origin, progress, future prospects, or anything else which you may deem proper for us to know. We would be glad if you could send us a list of all the members; also tell us the number and names of the different chapters.

Give my kindest regards to T. G. Mitchell and tell him that I would be very glad indeed to receive a letter from him.

T. STANLEY MATTHEWS, CINCINNATI, TO JOHN A. COLLINS,
MIAMI

CINCINNATI, Nov. 24, 1841.

Your last communication, giving details of the condition of Miami Chapter of the Beta Theta Pi, was received in due season, and with all the pleasure that the highly gratifying nature of the information was calculated to beget. Be assured that our hopes and sympathies cling with grateful tenderness to the growth and progress of our parent chapter, at once our mother and our sister. And while we know that she feels that every effort expended for our advancement is fully rewarded in its own success, we are determined not to be overcome in the generous contest of love. "B———" is the first word of our motto, as it is the first offering of our hearts.

Since our last we have had the painful duty of recording the resignation of two of our members, Mason Wilson and How-

ard Matthews. They arose not from any particular dislike, but a general distaste for the objects and too low an estimate—an undue appreciation of the nature of the association. Their places have, however, been filled by the election of Mr. Charles T. Worthington and John C. Zachos¹⁸: the latter, though resident in this country for fourteen years, is a native and citizen of Greece, where he expects eventually to reside. You can hardly conceive the difficulty of making a proper choice of members in a city where the pursuits of business conceal and encrust the true dispositions and characters of individuals, and render deception easy. We shall be more deliberate in future.

We have succeeded in the complete establishment and organization of the contemplated chapter at Athens, Ohio University. A communication was received from them yesterday, officially announcing their existence. They consist as yet of but three members: Charles C. Gilbert, of Zanesville, President; Ripley C. Hoffman, of Jackson, O., Recorder; and John C. Culbertson, of Zanesville. You will hear from them probably in a week, as soon as they receive our reply and know to whom to direct their communication. They rank third in the date of their establishment, for which we are indebted to the zeal and judgment of our friend, Henry Beard, of Zanesville. Its location in a flourishing institution, having nothing to fear from the hostility or rivalry of a similar society, are gratifying evidences of the success of our Association.

Our endeavors to locate a branch at Western Reserve College, have not as yet been crowned with the success we might reasonably have expected. Mr. Harvey, who acted in the matter, neither informed us of the names of those whom he admitted, nor them of the propriety of communicating with us, and now we

18. John C. Zachos was one of the most remarkable members of the fraternity. He studied law, medicine and theology; was the one who planned the Cooper Institute in New York City and directed it from 1870 until the time of his death. He was at times a professor of Literature at Antioch College, a professor of Biblical Exegesis at the Meadville Theological Seminary and of Literature at Cornell University; was a surgeon in the army during the Civil War and was a recognized authority on philology. He invented and taught an entirely novel system or shorthand and was the inventor of a shorthand instrument called the Stenotype adapted to report spoken words in condensed English characters. He was a native of Greece and after his entrance into the fraternity rearranged the motto to make it accord with proper grammatical construction.

are even ignorant of Mr. Harvey's address. For the present, therefore, we are shut out from that channel of communication. Last evening, at our regular meeting, we discussed the subject, and will try some expedient for opening a correspondence, of which, if it succeeds, we will inform you at the earliest opportunity.

The Cincinnati Chapter directed me to suggest to you the propriety of adding Thos. G. Mitchell to the Committee appointed to found a branch at Lexington. None of the original parties are there, and the present opportunity should not be neglected. It ought to be established permanently, which can only be done by introducing members, citizens of the place and resident there. If attached exclusively to the law school, it can but be temporary. We hope you will act upon these hints as soon as possible. We should also be glad to hear something of the other chapters, for whose erection we have voted. We should not be dilatory in these matters—cautious and secret, but prompt and speedy. Our first general convention should be a meeting of divers tongues and strange faces, but of kindred hearts, and perhaps as a second edition of the day of Pentecost (if you can forgive the Scriptural allusion) there may be a bountiful outpouring of the spirit of love, harmony and joy. Till then "we must work out our salvation with fear and trembling," "diligent in business, fervent in spirit," etc.

Present my official regards to the Miami Chapter in behalf of the one I represent, and my personal respects to all its members. For yourself, accept my warmest friendship, with unlimited power to check upon my confidence and assistance without any fear of overdrawing your account.

Yours truly,

T. STANLEY MATTHEWS,

Recorder of Cincinnati Chapter Beta Theta Pi.

JOHN A. COLLINS AT MIAMI TO T. STANLEY MATTHEWS
AT CINCINNATI

MIAMI UNIVERSITY, OXFORD, Nov. 27th, 1841.

Your last letter lies before me, and having seen my brother Betas, they have acceded to your suggestion, and placed Tom

Mitchell on the Committee to aid in the establishment of the Lexington chapter. We hope to hear from them before long.

As to the resignation of the two gentlemen of your chapter, we heard it with some regret. We appreciate, however, the difficulties under which you labour, and this very circumstance, tho it *proved* error at first, by making you more cautious may lead to advantageous results.

Our own prospects appear daily to grow brighter. You are aware that of the three Literary Halls attached to this institution the Miami Hall, alone allows the Alpha Delta Phi a home.¹⁹ We, by our secrecy, have free admission into all of them.

They last week made a desperate struggle for readmission into the Union Society, but were defeated by a large majority. We have increased our numbers by the initiation of Messrs. E. Bruce Stevens and Wm. Warder. This chapter, as it is the head, the fountain of the Beta, shall never be surpassed in zeal by any of its sister chapters. If anything of interest transpires, I shall write to you.

We are now playing a very extensive joke on the Alphas by wearing a brass pin with the letters M H K on one side and a chicken cock on the other. We shall expose them in a few days and silence I hope all suspicions as to our existence.

H. A. SWIFT ²⁰ AT WESTERN RESERVE TO T. STANLEY MATTHEWS
OF CINCINNATI

HUDSON, O., Dec., 10, 1841.

I received, about a month ago, a letter from our brother, L. P. Harvey, in which he stated that he had communicated to you the circumstances of the formation of a chapter of the Beta Theta Pi Society in this college; and requesting us to commence a correspondence with your chapter and the Parent Society. Partly through negligence and partly from unavoidable circumstances

19. This refers to a practice which was not unusual at times for the literary societies at different colleges to exclude from membership persons who belonged to the Greek letter secret societies.

20. Henry Adoniram Swift, Western Reserve, '42, who wrote the letter, was, together with Rufus Hawley St. John, a member of Alpha Delta Phi and Beta Theta Pi simultaneously. They had belonged with others named in the letter, to a society called The Boanergians or "Sons of Thunder," whose members were all taken over into the new Beta chapter.

we have delayed to do this. A few days since a letter came to the Hudson Post Office directed to *Boanerges*. As the existence of our old Boanergian Lodge was not publicly known, the postmaster was at a loss what to do with it, but finally concluded to put it in the box of A. S. Kedzie, a *Theological Student* who has been connected with the college ten or twelve years. This was of course just where it ought not to have gone and if the one who wrote it had not used just that degree of caution which he did, it might have been a serious injury to the interests of the Society. Some of the faithful soon heard of the arrival of the letter and it was obtained with a solemn promise that he should keep the whole affair entirely in the dark. That he will be true to his word I have no doubt, but if he *should* not, we have one very consoling assurance, that he is in possession of no knowledge that can possibly injure us or do any one else any good—for not even the name of our Society was mentioned. Much praise is due to "Fiducius" for his care on this point. Now to the history of our chapter and I will begin with that of the Lodge.

Something more than a year since twelve of the students of Western Reserve College, some wild, others steady, but all independent in thought and action associated themselves together for mutual protection; and the more effectually to combat an illiberal, bigoted spirit that prevailed at that time, they drew up a constitution and established a regular system of action. Our plan succeeded beyond our most sanguine expectations, and in a short time we found ourselves possessed of an influence which though invisible, was yet in many instances found to be by no means weak. In this flourishing state of our Lodge you may judge with how much pleasure we received the proposal of L. P. Harvey. To be sure, the object of the Beta Theta Pi was not *exactly* the same as that which led to the formation of our Lodge, but in the meantime our particular plans had been accomplished and the character of our members had in a great measure changed (two or three had left) so that there was nothing to prevent the abandonment of *our* constitution and the adoption of yours. This was done at the close of the last term. We have now, by the admission of two members to supply the place of those who left at the close of the last year, filled out our number as specified in the constitution, and in my opinion the members are such as they

should be. If I understand the qualifications necessary for membership, they all possess them, and I have no doubt that the chapter will be continued in such hands. The following is a list of our members:

H. A. Swift,²¹ Wm. H. Upson of the Senior Class; T. M. Oviatt, R. H. St. John of the Junior Class; Wm. H. Chapman, Oscar C. Kendrick and Charles R. Pierce (son of President Pierce) of the Sophomore Class; Platt S. Titus of the Freshmen; W. F. Evans and Anson Pease, of the English Department. Our officers are H. A. Swift, President, and A. Pease, Recorder, other officers will probably be needed and their application provided for in the By-Laws which are in preparation by a committee.

Article third, section second of the constitution says: "The secret pass word of this Society shall be * * * together with the words of the motto." I am requested to ask if there are no other signs, no particular manner of shaking hands, or any way by which we can recognize our brethren when there is no badge. And with regard to the badges, where they can be obtained of the description given in the constitution, and their cost? Will you write soon and answer the above, and also state any other *particulars* which will be interesting to us, as the present plans and prospects of the Society, the order of exercises at the meetings of your chapter, etc.?

I have written this at the request of our recorder, A. Pease, to whom your letters may be directed.

ANSON PEASE AT WESTERN RESERVE TO T. STANLEY MATTHEWS
AT CINCINNATI

HUDSON, O. Jan. 29th, 1842.

It is with pleasure I acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 24th Dec., 1841, it being the only definite knowledge we have ever had of the Cincinnati and other chapters, with which we, by an act passed by the Boanergian lodge last August, became con-

21. The names of Swift, St. John, Chapman, Kendrick, Titus, Evans and Pease are not to be found in our catalogues. Chapman and Kendrick were expelled as will be seen from a letter dated October 15th, 1842, but what happened to the rest of the members is unknown. Upson was for many years a prominent member of the chapter, but having accepted honorary membership in Delta Kappa Epsilon was expelled from Beta Theta Pi.

nected. In consequence of my absence, when your communication came to our office, it being in vacation, I did not receive it until the commencement of the term, three weeks since, and did not read it before our Society until two weeks after, it being the first meeting of the term; hence the delay until this time. We had formed something of an opinion of our sister chapters before receiving your letter and I think all, without an exception, would say that his anticipations could not be measured by the reality.

You did not mention the day on which the triennial convention was to be held. You say it is in August and if it comes in the fore part of the month, we shall regret it much, as our Commencement is on the 10th of that month. I think, if it would be possible to make your arrangements such, we could send two or three delegates as soon as the 20th of the month. But it will not be among the possibilities to do it before that time. We received a letter from the Oxford chapter. They state the same as is stated in your letter without giving us the day. I hope you will write soon and give us the day. In consequence of ill health, my communication must be short. In my next I will endeavor to give you an account of all four matters, our progress, etc.

THOS. G. MITCHELL AT TRANSYLVANIA TO T. STANLEY MATTHEWS AT CINCINNATI

LEXINGTON, Ky., February 2d, 1842.

In the midst of an immense amount of fun and study I steal time enough from myself to make a final report to your chapter of the Beta Theta Pi concerning the duties assigned me here. You probably heard some time since that I had determined to organize a chapter here on my own responsibility since Mr. Martin's presence was becoming daily less probable. After being detained first by the absence of Mr. Breck at Frankfort and then by that of Mr. Kane I, on Monday last, initiated the three persons mentioned to your chapter through Mr. Brown and constituted them a chapter in this city. They organized under the name of the Transylvania chapter by the election of Thos. M. Kane of Louisville, President, and Dan Breck, Jr., of Richmond, Recorder.

After adopting some by-laws they proceeded to elect Messrs. Alex. H. Robertson (a son of C. J. Robertson) and B. Rush

Mitchell (a son of Prof. Mitchell) to conditional membership. These gentlemen, one of whom is valedictorian of the Law Society, the other of the Medical Society, are both very talented and unsurpassed in their social qualities. Robertson is, I think, the strongest man in the Law class both in depth of thought and cultivated intellect and is probably loved more than any one of us by his classmates. Mitchell is an M. D. and although but 21 years old is making quite a figure here. For instance, he delivered one in a course of popular lectures here last Saturday which did him great credit. He is the only man under 30 who has yet spoken—his father having been one of the lecturers. Both of the gentlemen having accepted were on yesterday afternoon duly received into full membership and in a conversation of an hour which we had afterwards they as well as the rest of the members seemed to take a good deal of interest in the Association and to feel the proper spirit.

The chapter now consists of S. R. Bullock, A. H. Robertson and B. Rush Mitchell of Lexington, Dan Breck, Jr., of Richmond, Ky., and Thos. M. Kane of Louisville. Its members will be probably soon increased; but we shall act with great caution. I trust that this chapter will never have any resignations. Kane and Breck will leave when I do at the end of the session but the other three will remain here and keep up the organization. Give my best respects to all my friends there and especially to the Beta Theta Pi's and believe me,

P. S.—We have had a devil of a scrape here in the Medical School, one of the students (Bob Hunt) got mad at Prof. Cross and attacked him with a club. The professor fired a pistol at him but missed. Neither were much hurt; but I suppose Hunt will be expelled. Cross is popular and the class say that if he is not expelled they will forbid him to enter the rooms themselves and that he will get licked whenever he attends a lecture. I don't know what will come of it.

RIPLEY C. HOFFMAN AT OHIO TO T. STANLEY MATTHEWS
AT CINCINNATI

ATHENS, O., Feb. 7th, 1842.

I cannot apologize but with shame and confusion of face;

acknowledge that I have been guilty of a most egregious wrong in not answering your kind letter long since. I can assure you, sir, that it was by no means through want of sufficient respect, for it was to all of us the greatest possible source both of interest and instruction. And the chapter have cause to regret exceedingly that they have been denied a second communication from your pen by this inadvertent and, to some extent, unpardonable neglect of mine. I would, however, have written to you somewhat sooner, but we were about admitting some new members and I thought it better perhaps to wait and inform you of the result. The Athens chapter is now in a very flourishing condition and I can see no reason why it should not continue so. We have elected six new members and the interest and zeal with which they have engaged in this noble enterprise have indeed afforded us many additional incentives to greater action. The following is a list of their names in the order in which they were admitted. John A. Browne, Athens, O.; Robt. H. Gilmore, Granville, O.; Alex. M. Creel, Parkersburg, Va.; J. P. Safford, Putnam, O.; W. W. Bierce, Athens; and James Johnson, Athens. Mr. J. M. Bush has been proposed for membership but as we had had intimations from some source that some difficulty existed between himself and a member from the Cincinnati chapter, his election was continued until we could ascertain from you whether or not such difference did actually exist and if so whether it was irreconcilable or not. Mr. W. J. Hoge was also proposed but upon examination we found insuperable objections to his election. I was directed, at the last meeting of the chapter, to *suggest* to the Cincinnati chapter (as I have already done, to the Oxford chapter) the propriety of establishing a chapter at Granville and also at Marietta. We are acquainted with a number at either of the two places who were formerly members of this institution and who, from present appearances, we are led to believe, are destined, at some day, to be numbered among the gifted of the land, and who would gladly and efficiently engage in this good work. We trust that this *suggestion* will not be regarded by you as premature or improper in us but rather as a manifestation of the interest which we feel in the welfare and prosperity of the association.

We have not yet received a letter from the Western Reserve chapter. The Athens chapter tender their kindest regards to the

members of the Cincinnati chapter individually and collectively and we trust that we shall often hear from you and receive information and instruction in regard to our common society.

J. A. COLLINS AT MIAMI TO ALEXANDER PADDACK AT CINCINNATI

OXFORD, March 12, 1842.

Your very polite invitation has been accepted and the fraternity of this chapter return their warm thanks. Blackburn, Berry, McCleary and Hamilton will no doubt be present, and your humble servant if in his power. We passed the following resolutions at our last meeting:

"That the recorder be instructed to inform M. Hibben ²² that he is debarred from all the privileges and duties of this chapter, but that we have no power to release a man from his obligation and vows."

Your communications must hereafter be addressed to A. W. Hamilton who is now recorder.

I am confident that Hibben is already one of the A. D. "Phis." He is a sad mixture of boldness, meanness, talents and low desires, destitute of any leading and guiding principles, which remain the same in all circumstances.

T. M. OVIATT AT WESTERN RESERVE TO ALEX. PADDACK AT CINCINNATI

HUDSON, O., March 25th, 1842.

Your gratifying favor of the 5th inst. came duly to hand, though not until recently, being detained by the robbery of the mail by which it was sent.

The "Hudson chapter" send their most grateful acknowledgments to the "Cincinnati chapter" for their polite invitation but regret to say that it will not be possible to attend your anniversary on account of a multiplicity of college duties at this season of the year.

Your proposed celebration occurs about the time of our examination of the term.

In spirit we shall be with you, in person absent.

The "Hudson chapter" send their best regards and wish you all success.

²². This seems to be James Samuel Hibben of the class of '42, who became a member of Alpha Delta Phi.

We are happy to state that the interest of our chapter is on the advance and our exercises, from their novelty as well as incalculable importance, add much zest. An opportunity presents itself to us of forming a chapter at Kenyon College, O., with your concurrence and your assistance, it may be done. We have deemed it policy to continue extending our chapters as fast as circumstances permit. It will add strength and interest. It is also a matter of rejoicing to hear of one formed at Lexington, Ky.

We expect soon to hear from Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., where an important chapter may well be established.

We are strong in this faith that the Beta Theta will far outstrip the Alpha Delta Phi in importance and consequence.

This manner of binding kindred spirits, brethren in soul, is unusual, but hallowed. Enthusiasm marks its progress, community of interests sustains it. Though personally unknown to each other, yet ours is our common end, and we feel united to those who may prove themselves more than brothers, more than friends, in the common acceptance of that word. Much occurs to mind which we would say but time will not permit to dilate.

R. C. HOFFMAN OF THE OHIO CHAPTER TO STANLEY MATTHEWS
AT CINCINNATI

JACKSON, COURT HOUSE, O., Apr. 10th, 1842.

I will not apologize but rather acknowledge that I have been guilty of a very great wrong in not answering your truly kind and interesting letter long since. At our last election, Mr. J. A. Brown of Athens was elected Recorder. You will find him, what, I am sorry to say, you have not found me, a punctual and interesting correspondent. The Athens chapter when I left was in a very flourishing condition indeed. All the members take a very great and in fact almost unnatural interest in its welfare. Since I last wrote to you we have elected in four new members. J. M. Bush of Cincinnati, John Coon of Cleveland, A. Morrison, of Granville, and G. B. Wright²³ of Granville. Our chapter numbers

23. George B. Wright became a prominent lawyer and made a specialty of railroad practice. He was for a time Commissioner of Railroads for the State of Ohio, was vice-president and general manager of several large railroad companies, and receiver and president of others. During the Civil War he was a quartermaster general and a colonel of volunteer infantry in the Union army. His interest in the fraternity was manifested on every occasion and he attended all of its reunions and gatherings within his reach and could always be depended upon for an address.

thirteen and its number will perhaps not soon increase. Good timber is very scarce at this time in the Ohio University. We have not yet received a letter from the Recorder of the chapter at Western Reserve. Perhaps he expects us to write first. If so, you had better inform Mr. Brown in your next.

T. M. OVIATT, WESTERN RESERVE, TO A. W. HAMILTON, MIAMI

HUDSON, OHIO, May 20, 1842.

Your favor of the 21st ult., was yesterday received, and perused with pleasure. It was owing to our vacation that I received it no sooner. Your communication was one of much interest and importance to us. The tenor of your kind epistle we consider as proof absolute that we are looked upon as brothers, and have your kindest wishes, although about to err.

We have been, perhaps, too little guarded in our position, and this induces me, together with the esteem which we crave from you, to write a word in explanation. Relative to the formation of chapters and the constitutional requirements, we were led to suppose that either we had an incorrect copy of the constitution, or that there was a general understanding among the different chapters, to form others as opportunity might present. This we supposed from the fact that we had received intelligence of the formation of other chapters when advice had not been asked of us. Do not understand me as writing this in any calumniating tone or querulous spirit. It only occurred to me to write this as a reason for the unauthorized step which we might be led to take.

I apprehend that there is a misconception of our wish with reference to making our existence public. I meant to convey the idea to you that as soon as the whole association thought it politic to make their existence known, it would be in accordance with our wishes, and so far as we are concerned, this chapter is ready now. Not that we wish our chapter alone, of the association, to become known, while others are vested with secrecy. We are aware that our strength depends much upon our secrecy; but from recent information which came to some of our members from the faculty, they fear much from our society, though they know not its name or object; and they suspect us banded to

countervail their influences among the students. It is not our design to take any action relative to making our existence public, nor do we desire other chapters to do so, until the "Triennial Convention" shall assemble.

One inducement to speak of it in our last was that we might weigh the matter well before proceeding to any steps. One other point I wish to speak of, which is the manner in which our society here was first organized.

A club termed "Boannergians" composed the elements of this chapter, and the individual ²⁴ who has joined the Alphas and left us, was then an Alpha, and knew not of the inconsistency of belonging to both at the same time. He considered his obligations to the other society prior and paramount, and consequently when their position relative to each other was defined, he disconnected himself, although in heart he is with us. On these points I will not dilate farther, but ask your forbearance and forgivings for occupying so much of the sheet to explain. I hope our seal will not betray us or leave us to the devices of error. We feel our cause to be noble—our ends praiseworthy; inasmuch as the enthusiasm of youth is directed in a course which extends upward and onward. We perhaps have desired too earnestly to extend to other institutions the honor and the privileges of which we cannot be too proud. In regard to the Alphas, they are fast losing the advantage which they had, and our chapter begins to take the precedence here. We are confident; we are sure of success.

Please accept the warmest thanks of our chapter for the timely caution, while ever it shall be our earnest desire to receive your advice and be guided by the precepts of your wisdom.

The Hudson Chapter sends their greeting to the brethren of the Oxford Chapter.

JOHN A. BROWNE, OHIO, TO A. W. HAMILTON, MIAMI

ATHENS, OHIO, May 25, 1842.

Your letter of the 8th inst. came duly to hand, and I with pleasure avail myself of the first opportunity since the meeting of the chapter, at which your communication was read,

24. This item may refer to H. A. Swift or Rufus H. St. John.

of writing to you. You urge upon us in your kind letter the most profound secrecy as being necessary to the well being, and indeed to the very existence of our association. Of the importance of this the Athens Chapter is fully aware, and we have endeavored by every means in our power to prevent even the existence of the society from being suspected, and have succeeded.

Our chapter here is small, and our meetings are conducted in the most profound secrecy. The standard we have set high, and to this may be attributed the sparseness of our members. There is no danger of this chapter becoming too large, as we have nearly all in who are truly worthy to "bear the name and wear the badge of the Beta Theta Pi."

The necessity of secrecy the most profound, cannot too strongly be impressed upon the mind of each and every one of the members; from the fact that many minds are in such a dyspeptic state that the mere mention of secret societies acts upon them like rich viands upon a disordered stomach; and they see in the injunction of secrecy, imposed, as I understand, for the purpose of preserving the society in its infancy, and for the purpose of avoiding impertinent intentions and disagreeable associates, neither more nor less than some foul conspiracy for the subversion of our civil and religious liberties, or some scheme of aggrandizement of the members of such associations, at the expense and to the detriment of those by whom they are surrounded. Under such erroneous impressions, they exert every energy of their mind to the destruction of a society which they consider detrimental to the best interests of the country and to the moral well-being of their fellow-men.

In a list of the resident members of the Oxford Chapter sent by the former Recorder of that chapter, I find the name of James S. Hibben, which you have not down on your list of members made out and sent to this chapter. Is there such a member?

Below you will find a list of the members of the Athens Chapter of the Beta Theta Pi, similar to the one sent us by you. You will find our whole number to be thirteen, four of whom are pursuing their studies in the Ohio University. Those who have left the Ohio University, and are pursuing the study of their professions or are pursuing their studies in other institutions, are the following:

Charles C. Gilbert, West Point.

Ripley C. Hoffman, Student of Law, Jackson, Jackson Co., O.

R. H. Gilmore, residing at present in Granville.

Alex. M. Creel, Student of Law, Parkersburg, Va.

W. W. Bierce, Student of Law, Athens, Athens Co., O.

A. Morrison, Student of Law, Granville, O.

G. B. Wright, Student of Law, Granville, O.

John Coon, Granville College.

Browne, Student, Athens, O.

Those who are still members of the Ohio University are the follows:

John C. Culbertson, Zanesville, O.

Jefferson P. Safford, Putnam, O.

James Johnson, Athens, Athens Co., O.

John M. Bush, Cincinnati.

RODNEY MASON, JEFFERSON, TO JOHN A. COLLINS, MIAMI

CANNONBURG, PA., June 2, 1842.

Yours of the 25th, as also Hamilton's of the same date, was received several days since, and in compliance with the instructions of the society I proceeded immediately to make preparations for the establishment of a chapter, and accordingly spoke in regard to the probable success of an institution similar to ours, to the gentleman mentioned in my last. He thought that such a thing could be successfully established in this college. Upon my then telling our intention, and desiring his co-operation, he readily entered into the spirit of it, and immediately spoke to two of the most promising members of the senior class, and also two of the juniors, who immediately consented to give their influence in our favor. Deeming this to be a sufficient number for commencing operation, we last night organized "The Jefferson Chapter of the Beta Theta Pi," which dates from the first of June, 1842—the members present being Ulysses Mercur ²⁵ (senior), Towanda, Bradford Co., Pa.; I. S. McMicken ²⁵ (senior), Lycoming Co., Pa.; A. W. Hendricks

²⁵ Ulysses Mercur was prominent in Pennsylvania life for many years. He was a member of Congress from 1865 to 1872; was an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the State from 1872 to 1883, and Chief Justice from that time until his death in 1887. Isaac S. McMicken enlisted in the First Pennsylvania Volunteers at the outbreak of the war

(junior), Madison, Indiana, and W. M. Houston (Junior), Lovel, Trumbull Co., O.; and myself, Springfield, O. We proceeded to organize by the election of McMicken, President, and U. Mercur, Recorder; when, after having appointed a committee to draft by-laws, and transacting some unimportant business, the chapter adjourned.

Thus has been sown the seed of the good fruit which will, as we have every reason to anticipate, spring forth and flourish vigorously. Before many weeks we will have more than double our number, as many are thought of, each of whom is abundantly qualified to take a seat among us; but having now organized, we will proceed with circumspection. The members here are all warmly interested in the welfare of our association, and determined to promote its interest. The Recorder will write you an official announcement of our formation, but in the mean time you may consider this the report of your committee. I have found out the one to whom Harbine wrote on the subject, and I most heartily rejoice that he was unsuccessful, as this one is entirely unfit to be one of us. However, he was very intimate with Tom; having roomed with him for some time. We desire you or the Recorder to write us a letter containing the names of the Recorders of the various chapters, in order that we may be able to write them; and also to give us the names of all the members of the Miami Chapter, since it is desirable that each chapter should have a complete list of all the members of the association. I must bring this to a close as I desire to have it go in today's mail. Please write a list of Recorders *immediately*. We may not write for a week or more, as we will not before then have got under full operation. Give my respects to all members of the Brotherhood.

FROM J. S. BROWNE AT OHIO UNIVERSITY TO ALEX. PADDACK
AT CINCINNATI

ATHENS, June, 1842.

Founding my opinions upon well known and generally re-

with Mexico and served through that war, rising from a private to the rank of major. He was postmaster of the City of Mexico during the American occupation in 1847 and 1848 and ten years later returned to Mexico as United States Consul at Acapulco, dying there the next year of yellow fever.

ceived principles of etiquette I perhaps am doing wrong in writing this letter to you while one from this Chapter lies in your hands unanswered.

But in the prosecution of the study of my profession I shall be under the necessity of leaving this place for Massachusetts in one or two weeks. It therefore became my duty to resign the office of Recorder of the Athens Chapter and notify you of the election of J. P. Safford as Recorder *pro tem*. This became necessary as all letters directed to me will be forwarded after I leave.

You will please direct your letters then to J. P. Safford from whom they will meet with due consideration and regard. You will in time I trust find an agreeable and pleasing correspondent possessing that all important characteristic of a good correspondent *punctuality*.

In resigning the office I resign not all claims to your consideration as I still bear the name of Beta Theta Pi. Thus is established an alliance between our spirits which can never be dissolved—a mutual zeal in the glorious work in which we are engaged has forged a golden link of Love and respect which has bound together the kindred souls of the Beta Theta Pi. In the pursuit of a common end we have adopted a common vehicle which combines security with despatch and secrecy—our impulsive spirit is one of benevolence and together we will pursue the radiant pathway of duty and usefulness.

The world is rife with schemes of reformation and benevolence which in their progress threaten to overstep the bounds of reason and common sense. The fires of fanatic zeal are lighted in every part of the known world—but they are not tempered by the warmth of philanthropy or the genial intercourse of mutual confidence and goodwill. Within their new built walls dwells not that spirit which springs from mutual reliance, protection and kindness between individuals.

We possess all the ingredients of a complete and glorious success with the strongest tendencies to advancement and with a happy disposition for enterprise and improvement are like the full swollen bud ready to burst at the first genial and encouraging breath into fertility and usefulness. We possess elements of power and efficiency, all we require is development. We live

in a country and in times singularly propitious for such noble enterprises as that in which we are engaged, having for its objects the amelioration of the condition of Society by the improvement of the minds of the people, such an improvement the present state of society imperiously demands.

If we persevere, our success is certain and a glorious reward awaits our exertions even should we not carry that point of perfection which has been perhaps too sanguinely predicted, we may by infusing into the community the true spirit of philosophy and intellectual advancement, operate in such a manner as will be fruitful in benefits to mankind.

Animated then by these noble impulses, urged on by an intense desire to benefit our fellowmen, let us cooperate to give a new impulse to the march of improvement—girding up the loins of our mind to the enterprises of intellect and noble schemes of reformation and press forward to the mark of our high calling.

If we pursue with steady and undeviating perseverance the track which has been marked out by the Master spirits who set this vale in motion we can and will place the Beta Theta Pi upon a basis so solid as never to be convulsed by the revolution of popular opinion or the eternal vicissitudes of fashion—we may throw our banner on the outer wall and bid defiance to all opposition. After becoming once firmly established we will throw ourselves without hesitancy upon the unerring and unvarying judgment of an enlightened people and the ever rectifying decisions of *time*.

The world will have to acknowledge that this earth despite the brand of degradation in its brow is still the abode of minds which bear the impress of the Almighty Seal, and while the Beta Theta Pi exist I ask not that any one should traverse the fields of infinity or follow the easy flights of fancy in phantasms rich and beautiful in search of rarer excellence.

Extend to the Cincinnati Chapter the warmest greetings of their Athens brethren.

FROM T. M. OVIATT AT WESTERN RESERVE TO ALEXANDER
PADDACK AT CINCINNATI

HUDSON, Ohio, June 3, 1842.

Your favor of the 13th ult., was received and perused with sincere pleasure, although our delay to write might argue to the

contrary, but be assured that our thoughts have often wandered there when the pen has not essayed to write. The intelligence that our Oxford Brethren were there to share in your anniversary was truly gratifying and augurs well for our success, inasmuch as our success depends much upon the interest of its members.

We regretted sincerely that the concurrence of circumstances which demanded our immediate attention, prevented us from joining you in your festivities. The free converse of friends and *brothers* is at all times pleasant, and emphatically so must it be when kindred spirits meet and blend their words of gratulation. From the flattering accounts of our association, we look upon our success as already attained, as secure against all opposition.

I have taken the liberty of enclosing to you a small amount of funds to procure a badge and ask of you the trouble of directing one to be made.

The amount necessary I suppose is more than I have sent, and as soon as I shall be informed what the whole cost may be I will transmit the remainder. I learned today that Rev. Mr. Smith from Richfield (a village a few miles distant from here) was now attending the convention of divines in Cincinnati or Prof. Hickok of this Institution would be willing to bring the badge. The date of the formation of this Chapter is 1841, the individual who sends, the subscriber.

Perhaps in a former letter we wrote our views in regard to making known the existence of the association. If so, we only mentioned it for a subject of reflection before we met in convention. We could more successfully oppose the Alpha here if we were known as a society, but this shall be deferred for future consideration. We agree with you in regard to the feasibility of establishing a chapter in "Kenyon College" since reports of that institution which we hear impress us unfavorably. From Union we have not heard. There are now many secret societies there, consequently it is not a desirable place for a Chapter of our Society. We have felt desirous to extend the benefits and privileges of our society to other institutions, that others may enjoy with us the advantages which we so highly value. We shall without doubt send delegates to the convention. I have written to Athens but yet received no answer. We would like to know the address of the recorder at Lexington. By procuring the badge

for me you will lay me under an obligation by your kindness for which in return you shall receive my thanks and ever command my services.

Please tender the regards * * * of the Hudson Chapter to all the members of the Cincinnati; and accept for yourself personally my highest regard and esteem.

FROM T. M. OVIATT AT WESTERN RESERVE TO ALEXANDER
PADDACK AT CINCINNATI

HUDSON, June 24th, 1842

It is with pleasure I have to announce to you the receipt of your favor of the 13th inst. by "favor of Prof. Hickok." In not receiving the badge by him I am not at all disappointed. I was induced to ask you to send one by him supposing that if none were finished it were possible to order one to be made soon and sent in that way which would be the more safe.

But there is no immediate necessity for sending it, if it is not prudent to send it by mail. I have remitted the balance (\$7.00) required to complete the amount. I apprehend no danger in its being sent by mail if it is enclosed in a paper or in any way which you may deem proper. I have neglected to write you this answer to your last on account of being absent from town. I received a day or two since a letter from Athens which was indeed gratifying to us inasmuch as every successive communication furnishes us with new evidence of the brilliancy of our noble enterprise—an enterprise which realizes something stranger than fiction.

We would like to be informed of the Recorder's address in Lexington, Ky., which when we shall learn, we will open a correspondence with them.

We have before us here the brightest prospects and every hope of complete success. As competitors for a lasting reputation and a name of sterling worth we are willing to enter the lists with the Alphas and let it not be thought braggard to say that the time is not far distant when we think being competitors with the Alphas would be demeaning ourselves.

Already is the Alpha Society unpopular in this institution and nearly everyone, who has any influence, in the lower classes has pledged himself not to connect with that society if they are fortunate enough to be elected.

The prevailing spirit seems to be the desire to start a society

in opposition. Yet we are careful not to hint at the existence of our own association.

Our existence I understand is known to some of the Alphas who obtained their information through the article in the *Cleveland Observer* which Mr. Harvey communicated last September.

We think they are not positive in their belief. They certainly do not have information authentic enough to act upon. By transacting the business for me which I have directed you will confer upon me a favor which I hope may be returned if we are ever ever favored with a personal acquaintance.

FROM T. M. OVIATT AT WESTERN RESERVE TO ALEX. PADDACK
AT CINCINNATI

HUDSON, OHIO, July 12, 1842.

I shall set aside the rules of etiquette in writing to you before receiving an answer to my last. I do so for this reason, that I wish to know whether you have received the letter enclosing \$7.00 written nearly three weeks since. I supposed the badge would be completed as soon as the letter enclosing the balance of what was requisite could reach there. If the badge is not completed and therefore delayed I am satisfied, but I apprehend the letter is miscarried. Please write immediately and let me know. Mr. W. H. Upson and myself are delegates appointed to the convention, and shall expect to attend. The Hudson Chapter renew their expressions of attachment and regard and send their warmest greetings.

FROM ULYSSES MERCUR AT JEFFERSON TO ALEX. PADDACK
AT CINCINNATI

Jefferson College,²⁶ CANONSBURG, PA., July 15th, 1842.

Mr. Mason of the Miami Chapter (Oxford, O.) of the Beta

26. Jefferson College was located at Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, and at the time that the Gamma chapter was instituted was one of the leading colleges in the United States. It was under the control of the Presbyterian denomination. Only seven miles away at Washington, Pa., there was located Washington College, also under the control of the Presbyterian denomination and shortly after the Civil War, when both colleges were at a low ebb of their fortunes, they were united under the name of Washington and Jefferson College, which name the institution now bears.

Theta Pi having been appointed to establish a Chapter here, met, on the first day of June, with I. S. McMicken, W. M. Houston, A. W. Hendricks and Ulysses Mercur, when this Chapter was duly established and I. S. McMicken elected President and Ulysses Mercur, Recorder.

At a subsequent meeting held on the 22d June, five other members were admitted, increasing the number to ten. It now consists of the following members:

Rodney Mason, Springfield, Ohio.
 Ulysses Mercur, Lycoming Co., Pa.
 A. W. Hendricks, Madison, Indiana.
 W. M. Houston, Trumbull Co., Ohio.
 J. R. Lowrie, New York City.
 John McP. Sullivan, Butler, Pa.
 Robert P. Nevin, Pittsburg, Pa.
 John P. Penny, McKeesport, Pa.
 Charles Martin, Martinsburg, Ohio.

Our present number is considered to be as great as will be conducive to the welfare of Society, and we flatter ourselves that this Chapter is placed upon a foundation which will secure the most worthy Students of the Institution, and leave us nothing to fear from the establishment here, of any other similar Society.

As our vacation does not occur till October it is very doubtful whether we will be able to send a Delegate to the Triennial Convention in August. We would suggest the propriety, if not inconvenient for other Chapters, of hereafter holding it in September or October.

FROM A. W. HAMILTON AT MIAMI TO ALEXANDER PADDACK
 AT CINCINNATI

MIAMI UNIVERSITY, July 27th, '42.

At our last meeting your name was added to the "Committee of arrangements for the Triennial Convention." I have written to all of the Chapters to send their delegate to the "Broadway House," and to write to us the *names* of their delegates. By this means I think there will be no difficulty in knowing each other.

You will have to prepare a room in some other quarter of the city and such other arrangements as may be necessary.

I suppose you have heard that Tom Gordon could not come to make our speech. We shall all be disappointed, but we must do without him. I hope, however, that our attendance will be full and that all matters of difference will be satisfactory settled.

I am authorized to send an invitation to your Chapter to attend the approaching anniversary of B @ II, which you know will take place during Commencement week. Long is our orator and I expect we will have a good oration from the Hoosier Brother.

We have talked of some new members and most likely will take in some soon, but as yet we have admitted only one, William Jamison, Ross Co., O.

You sent us during Mr. Collins Recordership a list of your members. But he has misplaced it. I wish to leave matters in a little better state when I give up the office and therefore request of you another; also the precise *day* and *year* on which your Chapter was founded. All Chapters should be registered after this manner.

Oxford Chapter founded Aug. 8th, 1839.

J. R. Knox, student of law, Butler Co., O.

M. C. Ryan, student of law, Hamilton, O.

If things are kept in this manner there will be no difficulty. I wish to leave everything right therefore request you to be particular in your details. You must return an immediate answer so as to allow me ample time.

Present to your chapter the fraternal greetings of ours and accept for yourself considerations of my highest regard and esteem.

We have had official account of the establishment of the "Jefferson Chapter" Canonsburg, Pa. You no doubt will receive it also soon.

FROM ULYSSES MERCUR AT JEFFERSON TO ALEXANDER PADDACK
AT CINCINNATI

JEFFERSON COLLEGE, Aug. 11th, 1842.

I have taken the liberty of directing the enclosed to you, with the request that you will lay it before the Convention.

I wish you would write me immediately on the final adjourn-

ment of the Convention, giving an account of the proceedings. The closing of the mail will not permit me to add more.

Please accept for yourself and all members of your Chapter the kindest wishes and warmest fellowship of this Chapter.

FROM ULYSSES MERCUR AT JEFFERSON TO THE CONVENTION
OF 1842

JEFFERSON CHAPTER OF THE BETA THETA PI,

Aug. 11th, 1842.

Friends and Brothers:

It is with feelings of deepest regret that we are obliged to inform you of the impossibility our being represented in Convention. The members of the Senior Class are just preparing for their final examination, which necessarily requires their attendance here, and the members of the other Classes are prevented from attending by the importance of the particular study in which they are now engaged, and upon which they must also be examined in a few days. Being thus unavoidably prevented from sending a Delegate, we have deemed it advisable to suggest a few measures expressive of our sentiments, for your consideration.

1. We wish to have the time of holding the Triennial Convention so changed as to take place some time between the 9th of September and first of November the first month being our Senior, and the latter our regular vacation. If this time should not be *quite* as convenient for a few of the nearer Chapters, yet we presume they will yield this to accommodate the more distant ones, for those who are near could at any time get permission to be absent from College for a short time, while it would be very difficult for us to get absence for that greater length of time which would be necessary.

2. We think there should be a Common Seal, to be used in all Correspondence between the different Chapters. This not only appears proper from the very nature of the relations which exist between the different branches of our Association, but would also more effectually secure its existence from the knowledge of others at our College. For that visible sign being impressed upon the exterior of a letter would secure additional caution in the exposure of its contents.

3. We think it would be a mutual benefit to the different Chapters to have all their Recorders commence their respective duties at the same time. This will at all times enable us to know to whom the correspondence should be directed.

These changes, although neither is of vital importance, are viewed by us as worthy of consideration.

We are unacquainted with the various measures which you design discussing, and consequently can express no opinion. But we hope that each and every measure which you may adopt, will serve to extend the usefulness and reputation, and to cement still more closely all the interests of our beloved Association.

By order of the Chapter,

ULYSSES MERCUR,

Recorder.

TO THE BETA THETA PI IN CONVENTION ASSEMBLED.

CHAPTER II

FROM THE CONVENTION OF 1842 TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PRINCETON CHAPTER

The first convention of the fraternity, called the First Triennial, was held August 15th, 1842, at Cincinnati. Delegates were present from the Miami, Cincinnati, Western Reserve and Ohio Chapters. No delegate appeared from either the Transylvania or Jefferson chapters.

The letter from the Jefferson Chapter was referred to a committee. The matter of resignations and expulsions from the fraternity was discussed and the question of amending the constitution to meet the exigencies of the situations which had arisen on account of the development of the association into a fraternity of a plurality of chapters was considered.

The provision that no chapter or member of the association should reveal its existence was repealed and for it there was substituted the provision that no chapter or member of the association should reveal anything in regard to it more than its mere existence and that no chapter should reveal the existence of another chapter without the consent of the latter.

Attention should be called to the fact that at this stage in the history of American colleges, secret societies were regarded with universal disfavor by college authorities, except possibly at Union College, N. Y. It will be seen from the correspondence in the preceding pages how each chapter was formed surreptitiously and secretly and how its existence was scrupulously kept from the knowledge of the college authorities and rival societies whose existence was suspected. But even at this early date knowledge of the existence of Greek letter societies at various colleges had spread to the students all over the country and although Beta Theta Pi was only three years old, many of its members felt such a pride in the association and such confidence in the worth of its members that they believed it to be good policy to make public the existence of the association whenever opposition to it was not so strong and so public as to endanger the existence of a particular chapter.

The convention adopted a resolution that a seal should be procured to be stamped upon letters in the manner then prevalent of sealing letters by means of wax and upon which seal should be displayed two clasped hands and "a Greek letter indicating the priority of the chapter." This seems to have been the origin of the system of naming the chapters by the alphabetical order of the letters in the Greek alphabet. Delta Phi was the first fraternity which had adopted this system, but as at that time Delta Phi had but three chapters, namely at Union, Brown and New York University, it is doubtful whether the attendants at this convention had ever heard of the scheme. It seems to have spontaneously originated out of the circumstances of the situation.

Another enactment of this convention was that a record book should be procured into which should be transcribed the constitution of the association and the minutes of each convention, and that such book should be deposited with the chapter with which the next convention was to be held. So far as is known, no attempt was ever made to carry out this provision. What was actually done was that at the close of a convention, one chapter was usually entrusted with the duty of copying its minutes and furnishing the same to the other chapters.

Some other enactments of this convention may be mentioned. One was a provision requiring the chapters to make semi-annual reports, a provision which is continued to the present day. Another was a resolution for the establishment of a society periodical; a third granting to each chapter the power of expelling, dismissing or suspending any member. And lastly, a provision, undoubtedly dictated by the experience of the Western Reserve Chapter, in inadvertently taking over with the local society out of which it was organized a member of Alpha Delta Phi, that

"No person a member of any similar association, shall be eligible to membership in this and no member of this association shall be eligible to membership in any other association with similar objects."

The order of priority of the chapters and the Greek letters corresponding thereto was as follows at the time of the convention:

- Alpha: Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.
Beta: Cincinnati, Ohio.
Gamma: Western Reserve College, Hudson, Ohio.
Delta: Ohio University, Athens, Ohio.
Epsilon: Transylvania University, Lexington, Kentucky.
Zeta: Jefferson College, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania.

FROM T. M. OVIATT, WESTERN RESERVE TO ALEXANDER PADDACK
AT CINCINNATI

RICHFIELD, OHIO, Sept. 8th, 1842.

I am constrained to write now that we may receive an answer before the commencement of next term relative to the proceedings of the convention. Upon returning I have consulted with several members of our chapter in regard to the measure so strenuously advocated by Millard and myself—the measure concerning the publicity of our existence. To several whom we have offered a place with us they object only on account of our secrecy. Without the aid of these individuals we must expect a lingering existence and premature dissolution and it has been the only encouragement of some of the members now with us that this measure would be carried out. It concerns intimately the vital interests of our society here. It is with these feelings we earnestly wish that your chapter as well as all others would approve this measure.

Since returning I have correctly ascertained that the Alphas know so positively the names of the members of the Beta Society at Oxford that they have marked their names on a catalogue which they sent to a member of the Alpha. Our existence is now known here by many and that we may be permitted to wear the badge and proclaim ourselves to the world is all that we desire to secure success. I have forgotten the recorder's name at Oxford as I would write to them. It is important for us to know within two weeks or as soon as possible the will of all the association in regard to this.

Also a copy of the proceedings which I expected by Millard we have not received.

If we become public two or three badges will be sent for immediately. You will confer a great kindness upon us to urge

the chapters of Lexington and Oxford to let us know their opinion as soon as possible. The address of the Recorder at Cincinnati I have lost or mislaid. It is for that reason I direct this to you. I have but time to renew again all expressions of good will and friendship.

FROM A. W. HENDRICKS, JEFFERSON, TO ALEXANDER PADDACK,
AT CINCINNATI

CANONSBURG, PA., Sept. 13th, 1842.

We have for some time been waiting in vain to receive an account of the proceedings of the late Triennial Convention. We had hoped that either you—to whose care our address to the convention was directed—or the proper official organ of the Convention would immediately favour us with the desired information.

But as it does not seem to be forthcoming and as the duty of transmitting it may have seemed too much like "everybody's business" to be assumed by any particular person, I have thought it proper to request this information of you in particular.

Our College Session will close on the last Thursday of this month and our Chapter will hold its last meeting on the Tuesday preceding. It would gratify us to hear from you previous to that time.

As was remarked, in anticipation, by one of my brother Recorders, the proceedings of the Triennial Convention may have an important influence on the future prospects of our order. If this prediction prove true I sincerely hope that that influence may be salutary, and that the 15th of August '42 may be a day to which we and the future members of our Association may recur with pleasure as an epoch from which to date our steady prosperity and stability of purpose.

We deeply regret our failure in sending a representative. But this regret is mitigated by the reflection that having been so recently admitted into the Fraternity it could not be expected of us, that we should be prepared for contributing any important assistance to the objects for which the Convention met.

The view which you have taken of our common association entirely coincides with our own. Most cordially do we agree with

you as to "the propriety of its aims and purposes." The warmest sympathies of the members of the Jefferson Chapter are enlisted in the cause and that we may prove worthy of the noble Brotherhood is our most sincere wish.

True, no great measure of political or other nature—calculated to excite *vulgar* admiration—stands forth as the object of our common effort—as a central attraction to bind us together. But common pursuits and aspirations engender congenial sympathies and there is a homogeneous attraction between kindred minds (if such we be) sufficiently strong to unite us firmly. We sail not by a rugged rocky landmark rising to our view, but by the mild light of two guiding Stars.

At our last meeting a resolution passed recommending the establishment of a chapter in Pittsburgh. I do not know the proper course to be pursued, but suppose that it is customary in such cases—when no convention is to be held for so long a time—to take the sense of the other Chapters by letter. Those of our best acquainted in Pittsburgh advocate the measure most warmly. They think Pittsburg contains good material with which to found a Chapter. Mr. Nevin resides there—also one of our *intended* members.

I need say but little concerning our Chapter. Its regular meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month. Messrs. Martin, Mercur, McMicken, Nevin and Lowrie will graduate and leave us at the close of the session.

We are determined at least not to lower, but wish to raise the standard of membership. As an example of the influence which such associations may exert and as it was a Beta Theta Pi measure I may mention that our Chapter has been the means of abolishing the annual contest between our two Literary Societies. Our motive was that while that institution existed it would be necessary for *our* members to meet in the capacity of rivals. This custom had existed for nearly half a century and of course its antiquity rendered it almost sacred. But it has already given place, with all its ancient honors, to a new institution, and the wondering "gob" (as we conveniently term them) never dream of the existence of its conquering successor. Since my predecessor addressed you we have changed our officers. Mr. Penny is President; Recorder, see signature. Allow me to imitate your

example and ask pardon for prolixity—though I cannot hope that it will be so cheerfully granted to me as it was to you. Mr. Mason sends you and his other Friends his best respects.

In behalf of the Jefferson Chapter, I respond to the friendly greetings of our Cincinnati Brethren.

FROM E. B. STEVENS, MIAMI, TO JOHN H. JONES, CINCINNATI

~~MIAMI, OHIO, Oct. 12th, 1842.~~

OXFORD, OHIO, Oct. 12th, 1842.

On account of some miscarriage perhaps, the official proceedings of our Triennial Convention have never reached us. As, no doubt, some of the Chapters are anxious for us all to act on those proceedings, we have thought best not to wait any longer on Mr. Blackburn, but request a copy from your Chapter.

We have not taken in any new members, but probably will take in one in a few days. Our officers are Mr. William Warder, President; Edward B. Stevens, Recorder.

Please send a copy of the Convention proceedings this week if you can.

Give my best respects to all the Cincinnati fraternity.

FROM T. M. OVIATT, WESTERN RESERVE TO JOHN H. JONES,
CINCINNATI

HUDSON, OHIO, Oct. 15th, 1842.

Although this is the first time I address you through the medium of writing, our acquaintance I have thought should supersede the necessity of an apology.

Doubtless by this time you wonder at our delay to write you. Our excuse is that we have been waiting for the accomplishment of some important projects which we have started. The news we have to convey will be I presume to you at the same time agreeable and unpleasant.

Two of our members, Chapman and Kendrick, are no longer connected with us. On account of their conduct both they and the society have felt that a longer connection would militate against the interests of this society.

Mr. Goodwin whom we wrote to you last term had joined us,

is now a member of the Alpha Delta Phi.¹ The explanation is this. We offered him an election last term after we had (as individuals) obtained his pledge not to join the other society. He accepted of our election and said he would defer being initiated until the commencement of this term. When accordingly we went to him this term he modestly informed us that he was an Alpha. He is not informed sufficiently with regard to our Society to injure us.

We have admitted S. M. Burton and S. R. Bissell—the first a member of the Theological and the other a member of the Senior class.

We have taken measures to admit to the privileges of our body several graduate members of this college who will reflect honor upon whatever association they may be connected with.

We have petitioned the Faculty of this institution for their sanction to our existence as a society, in order that we may obtain such members who regard the Faculty as anything and also that we may have a representative on the day of commencement. The result of the deliberations of the Faculty was that they do *not* sanction until one member of their body or more may be *initiated* and be made acquainted with our constitution, since the laws of the Trustees require that the constitution and proceedings of a society in the college be known before such a society be allowed to have their sanction. The "committee of petition," upon being informed of this by Tutor Wright, the Secretary of their body, and also a private hint from him that Professor Hickok and President Pierce would accept of an election, have recommended that Professor Hickok be elected by the Society to membership. Should the Professor become a member we shall secure every

1. It may seem singular to the modern reader that so much is said in the letters at this period of the fraternity's history, respecting Alpha Delta Phi, which has become relatively unimportant as a member of the college fraternity group except in the Northeastern part of the United States; but at the time these letters were written, Alpha Delta Phi was a pushing, progressive, pioneer fraternity under the direct supervision of its founder, Samuel Eells, and it was a rival of the Miami, Cincinnati, and Western Reserve chapters; and was the only Greek letter secret society with which these chapters came into contact, and so cut a large figure in the college world whose doings are being chronicled in these letters. In 1842, at the time this letter was written, Alpha Delta Phi had chapters at Hamilton, Miami, Columbia, Yale, Amherst, Harvard, Hobart, Cincinnati, Western Reserve and Bowdoin, a chapter roll which at that time far surpassed that of any of its rivals. It also had had chapters at New York University and Brown, which were then inactive.

object of our wishes. This business we have not yet finished but we feel bound to write to let you know what we are doing, and also our officers until January. S. R. Bissell, President, H. C. Gaylord, Recorder. Accompanying this you will receive a paper from me containing a notice of our existence; and I hope we shall not be charged with acting prematurely on this point.

We were literally dragged out from the covert by the Alphas who are all in agitation. Only this induced us to extend our desire to be known to the public prints—that the Alphas had most ungenerously traduced and slandered our association publicly. We felt bound to set the matter in a different light, and with the assurance we had from your and other chapters that the measure of publicity adopted in our convention would be unanimously agreed to, we thought no time so favorable as the present juncture to “come out.”

The tide of public opinion is turned against the Alphas and I deem it not self sufficient to say that with all but the immediate friends of the other societies (and they are few) ours is far the most popular. Never since the formation of this branch have I been so encouraged as now. The proceedings of the Convention have been unanimously approved. The proceedings are not known to those individuals who have been disconnected.

I hope by the next letter to inform you of several new members. Permit me to offer my sincere thanks to your chapter for their courtesy to me while acting unworthily as recorder of this branch and the indulgence they have granted in taking no cognizance of my mistakes and in overlooking the haste with which I have always indited my letters. To Mr. A. Paddack (“the negative Brother”) please tender my best regards and the warmest wishes of respect, hoping as I do that he will think no letter from him will come unwelcome to me.

I have lamented the feebleness of my pen when, for the interest of this association and its members there have arisen “thoughts that breathe” but died unheard—but *my* zeal is not diminished.

The Hudson Chapter renew their warmest professions of friendship and fellowship.

FROM E. B. STEVENS AT MIAMI TO JOHN H. JONES AT
CINCINNATI

MIAMI UNIVERSITY, October 27th, 1842.

At a meeting of this Chapter of the Beta Theta Pi held a few evenings since, the proceedings of the Convention were considered and adopted.

We have heard from the Hudson chapter which has adopted the proceedings "unanimously," no news, excepting an anticipated rupture in favor of the Alphas. The Erodelphian society has excluded the Alpha Delta Phi from their Hall and placed a veto on them in their constitution. Some of the *expectant* in that society are making an effort to repeal that clause, but they need not try it. Beta influence has extended too far, for any such attempt to succeed.

No additions as yet to our chapter. Please accept our thanks for the trouble we gave you in copying the convention minutes.

FROM R. H. GILMORE, OHIO, TO JOHN H. JONES, CINCINNATI

ATHENS, OHIO, Nov. 30, 1842.

For a variety of reasons I have not written—as I should have done long ago—to inform you of the situation of our chapter. I have so long delayed that I am not certain but that rumor may have already rendered this communication in part unnecessary. I was elected to the office of Recorder at the last regular meeting in October—at which time J. M. Bush was also elected President. Since our last communication we have added to the Chapter the following individuals:

2. Several of these members became prominent in after life. L. D. McCabe was for very many years professor of philosophy and vice-president of Ohio Wesleyan University and its acting president for a number of years. He was a Methodist clergyman of prominence and a great help to the chapter in Ohio Wesleyan. Milton S. Latham, who was also a member of the Jefferson chapter, went to California in 1849 and became a leading figure in the early life of that state. He was a member of Congress, Collector of the Port of San Francisco, Governor of California, and United States Senator. He was President of the London and San Francisco Bank, the leading financial institution of San Francisco for many years, and moving to New York became one of the founders and president of the New York Mining Exchange. James M. Safford moved to Nashville, Tennessee, and became an eminent geologist. He was State Geologist of Tennessee for many years, author of the "Geology of Tennessee," and professor of Geology and Kindred Subjects in Vanderbilt University, the University of Nashville and Cumberland University at various times.

1. L. D. McCabe,² Marietta, O.
2. M. S. Latham, Columbus, O.
3. Wm. J. Hoge, Gallatin, Tenn.
4. Jas. M. Safford, Putnam, O.
5. Wm. Shotwell, Cadiz, O.
6. A. Oliver, Warren Co.

Thus making the number of members (at present resident in the place) eleven. And we now felicitate ourselves on having acquired a majority of the talent in the Institution. Our Chapter after mature deliberation concluded to divulge its existence, and accordingly have done so. This at first as might be expected created considerable excitement, and perhaps a little ill-feeling in some. But on the whole we feel fully compensated for anything of this kind that has—or may—arise by the beneficial effects already manifest. Among these is a renewed interest in all of us for the prosperity of our association; we feel a responsibility unknown before, being aware that our individual reputation is in a greater degree connected with that of the Chapter. And the more—as we have a rival bearing the *unassuming* title of "*Decem Viri*." Nor are they worthy of contempt, for there are some among the chosen "*ten*" of no mean talent.

We are at present making some exertions to ornament the hall where our meetings are held, and hope that by the time any of your Chapter shall visit us—we may be able to welcome you to a hall of whose appearance we shall have no cause to be ashamed.

The members of the Delta³ Chapter join with me in presenting to yourself and Chapter their friendly regard.

J. C. CULBERTSON, OHIO, TO E. B. STEVENS, MIAMI

ATHENS, OHIO, Feb. 27, 1843.

At the first meeting of our chapter, in January, Mr. R. H. Gilmore was elected President, and myself Recorder. I have nothing to offer as an excuse for my remissness save that there has been nothing special to communicate.

By referring to the minutes of the Convention, I find that

3. This is the first time apparently that a Greek letter name was ever applied to a chapter of Beta Theta Pi as a designation.

it devolves upon me to report a list of our members, &c. Our chapter consists of the following:

W. W. Bierce, Athens, studying Law.

*J. M. Bush, Cincinnati.

*J. C. Culbertson, Zanesville, O.

*R. H. Gilmore, Fairmount, O.

*W. I. Hoge, Gallatin, Tenn.

*L. D. McCabe, Marietta, O.

*M. S. Latham, Columbus, O.

*J. M. Safford, Putnam, O.

*J. P. Safford, Putnam, O.

*W. Shotwell, Cadiz, O.

R. C. Hoffman, Jackson, O., studying Law.

A. Morrison, Columbus, O., studying Law.

G. B. Wright, Granville, O., studying Law.

A. M. Creele, Parkersburg, Va., studying Law.

J. A. Brown, Athens, O., studying Medicine.

J. Johnson, Athens, O., teaching.

John Coon, Cleveland, O., teaching.

C. C. Gilbert, Zanesville, O., Cadet, West Point.

* Now at the Ohio University.

You will perceive from the above that our number is extensive; yet we flatter ourselves that the *reputation* of the individuals concerned is *such* as to confer honor upon the *association* without waiting for the *association* to confer honor upon *them*. The same care that a Miss manifests when she culls a choice bouquet should be exercised in the selection of those who shall adorn our "Literary Knighthood." *Mind* in its bloom, *sociality* in its flower, and *morality* in its maturity, should unite in the B.

For this reason we have *invariably* been careful, considerate⁴ and circumspect in our admission of members. Some one suggests an individual; his character in the society is freely discussed, and his pretensions fully canvassed. During the time intervening ere our next meeting, (two weeks afterward), the members examine the person under consideration, and determine whether they can admit him into the association and style him *brother*. At the ensuing meeting he is *proposed*, but lest his

4. We do not know any rule or regulation for the admission of members to the fraternity that is better than the one promulgated by Brother Culbertson at this early date.

character should not be fully understood, his election is deferred until the next meeting—when, if worthy, he receives our votes. Not content with this, he is not informed of his election nor introduced till the *next* meeting, reserving for ourselves the power of reconsideration. In this way we have guarded against hasty action, and have manned our fort with a band of literary veterans.

I have been thus particular in the matter, since we are afraid that our Miami brethren give us small credit for *judgment*; and while we hail every letter from you, as but the token of a warm interest and ardent attachment to the B @ II, we are desirous to show our brothers that we have at least an *ordinary* share of *prudence*. But *caution* may become *fastidiousness*, and this we have tried on the other hand to guard against; an over scrupulous nicety will defeat its own ends. In nothing is this more apparent than in *invariably* choosing *only* those who are highly advanced in college as members of our association.

Some of the finest minds I have ever met with have been *irregulars*, or in the preparatory department, and let us seize upon the gem ere another pluck it from our grasp, and thus *perpetuate* our chapter, if possible, and not let it *flag* through want of members, or sink into utter extinction. No one is more opposed than myself to making the association a sewer for the reception of unworthy streams, or a hot bed for the nourishment of mushroom acquirements. But where we see a mind of the highest order and most brilliant prospects, why not secure this treasure—whether *Freshy*, *Soph.* or *Senior*, ere a rival society has secured it? I speak from *experience*. Most of our number are *Seniors* and will leave next fall, and we have now no prospect of a recruit. There are some in the lower classes who would have honored the B., but we neglected to secure them, and now a *would-be-rival* has sprung up and they are numbered in her ranks.

This society has assumed the *modest* title of the *decem viri*, men of chaff; they have sprung up in the night, and like Jonah's gourd, will wither under the full blaze of the Beta sun. I cannot forbear giving you the exceedingly happy allusion of *Hendricks*, *Recorder* of the Jefferson Chapter, with regard to them: "It is time," says he, "to wake up, when we hear the rattling bones of old Rome give signs of resurrection. However, when we throw ourselves on our *Greek* origin, and hang out our *Grecian* emblems, I hope we can withstand the formidable *decem viri*."

Your remarks with regard to the publicity of our chapter need also, my friend, some comments. They would have been addressed with much more justice to the Hudson Chapter, who came out some time before us, and were the first to unfurl to the world the banner of Beta Theta Pi.

Seeing this, and supposing that they had good grounds for such an important step, we published our existence. I will not deny that we supposed that the measures of the Convention, if approved of by two-thirds of the chapters, would be valid⁵; but we were not alone in this conclusion. By referring to the concluding remark of Secretary Blackburn's communication to the chapters, you will find the following: "I was requested by the Convention to urge upon the different chapters the necessity of deciding *immediately* upon the proceedings of the Convention, and of transmitting their decisions to each other so that the whole association may know whether the resolutions passed by the Convention are binding in consequence of the *approval* of two-thirds of the chapters," &c. But even admitting your ground to be true, as it most unquestionably is, that one-third of the chapters can invalidate, we can give reasons for our course. It rested with Jefferson and the Transylvania Chapters to negative the proceedings of the Convention. As yet we had heard nothing from the *Jefferson Chapter* since the Convention, but we had a letter from them on file previous to the Convention, stating their unanimous wish that the association should be made public; under these circumstances we had no doubt but that they would approve of the action. About ten days after, we received a letter from them, stating that they were sorry to hear that it had been approved of by the *constitutional number*.

The Lexington boys have not written to us yet; the "four months" has expired; consequently they, in conjunction with the Jefferson Chapter, cannot *invalidate*, and the resolution of the Convention, relative to the publicity of the chapter, is conse-

5. It would seem that the worthy brother misread the provisions of the constitution referred to. This provision was: "The proceedings of this convention shall be valid unless disapproved by one-third of the chapters within four months after the final adjournment of the convention." Obviously, this enactment did not require the affirmative approval of two-thirds of the chapters, but the proceedings of the convention were valid without any action by anybody; but within the four months referred to, they might be rendered invalid by an expressed disapproval of one-third of the chapters.

quently *valid*. Publicity has given tone and feeling to our chapter, and has aroused us from that deep lethargy which a want of contact with public opinion had enveloped us in, to the utter exclusion of all *effort*.

Improving our hall has led us to identify ourselves more closely with the association, and has shown our fellow students that there was dignity and energy in the B. Long may she flourish, a jewel in the coronet of America's glory—a support which the ivy of *truth* and the tendril of *virtue*, avoiding earth's cold moists, may embrace, and *embracing*, ascend heavenwards.

Our anniversary will take place at the end of this session, when we expect to have an exhibition consisting of anniversary addresses, poem and oration. It would add much zest to the occasion were we permitted to hail our Miami brethren, and provided our mother were to send a delegate to acknowledge the little bantling which will ever be grateful to the being which gave it birth.

We have taken the same action with regard to the Pittsburgh Chapter as you did; this we consider necessary to perpetuate the association.

I trust, my dear Stevens, that this letter will not be misconstrued. To our "Fathers in the faith," those "whose garments are wet with the dews of night," we shall ever look for instruction and reverence their counsels. But we would be unworthy of the name of B. did we lack manliness to speak our own thoughts either by way of *defense* or *advice*. Present the kindest regards of the Athens Chapter to the Miami.

FROM J. C. CULBERTSON, OHIO, TO ALEXANDER PADDACK,
CINCINNATI

ATHENS, OHIO, March 9th, 1843.

At our first meeting in January last, R. H. Gillmore was appointed *President* and myself *Recorder*. Your future communications will be directed accordingly.

In the name of the Delta Chapter, Beta Theta Pi, I most cordially invite the Cincinnati branch to be present at their Anniversary Exhibition, to be held at the close of the present term (about the 4th April).

The exercises to consist of the following:

1. An Anniversary Address, W. W. Bierce.
2. Poem or Essay—J. A. Browne.
3. Poem or Oration—A. M. Creel.
4. Poem or Oration, J. Johnson.
5. Poem or Oration, R. C. Hoffman.

Invitations have been sent to the several chapters and Delegations are expected.

Come, and you may not be ashamed of the little bantling, which you so kindly ushered into life, and fathered, till it is not ashamed to class itself as one of the Fraternity.

Come and the upper seat at our Board will ever be the honored station of our elder brother.

Come, let us give the Beta an impulse, which shall indeed omen that the star of its ascendancy shall never set.

Come, let us consecrate a trysting place for confident hearts—a homestead for *brothers*.

By a reference to the records I find that your chapter is in debt to ours in the way of correspondence. On the receipt of your letter, I shall, as it is my duty, give you a list of our members, an account of our prospects, and our highly flattering conditions since we have flung to the winds the banner of Beta Theta Pi.

JOHN H. JONES, CINCINNATI, TO E. B. STEVENS, MIAMI

CINCINNATI, March 25, 1843.

Enclosed I send you the seal for your chapter which Warder requested me to procure together with Carley's bill which I have paid. As no instructions were sent, I was obliged to rely upon myself for ordering it, and as I know but very little about such things, it may be that you will not be pleased with what has been done.

At our last meeting Henry Snow was elected Recorder of this chapter; to him, therefore, your communications will be hereafter directed. It may perhaps have been a matter of surprise to you that you have not received more frequent communications from us during the last few months. The cause is to be found in the fact that there has been nothing of interest to be communicated.

Several of our members left the city during the winter:

Paddock, as you know, went to Mississippi; Matthews to Tennessee; Brown to New Orleans; he has, however, now come back. Mr. Zachos has been sick; and the rest of us have been so busied that we could scarcely find time to attend to the meetings of our chapter. This, then, or rather these, are the reasons why we have not more frequently sent letters announcing our progress. But I hope that such will be the case no longer; but that we shall now apply ourselves with new energy to the accomplishment of the great objects contemplated by our society. Great, indeed, they are; so large, in fact, that many would regard them as visionary, and laugh to scorn those who attempt their completion. But we may console ourselves with the reflection that even if we be unable to succeed to the full extent of our wishes, yet that we shall accomplish something.

He who aims high, though he miss his mark, may yet strike higher than one who looking low accomplishes his design. The great French orator, when France seemed in the very extremity of distress, thundered from the tribune: "It is necessary to dare, again to dare, and ever to dare." His country followed his advice, dared, when to dare seemed almost frenzy, and succeeded.

But even if we fail in accomplishing the lofty designs of our association; yet regarded as a mere common literary society, it can not but do much good constituted as it is, and numbering among its members, we hope, some young men of talent; it must be peculiarly suited for doing good as a mere literary association. To imbue its members with a love of letters, to keep it alive in them when without some aid, the more exciting pursuits of life might entirely destroy it, are certainly objects worthy of labor; and if the Beta Theta Pi succeed in accomplishing these, then even if it does no more, may we flatter ourselves that our attempt has not been utterly fruitless. But I hope and believe that my preaching is vain, because that there is no call for it in your case. We should rather draw encouragement and instruction from the mother chapter, than seek to communicate of our own. My object, however, has been not so much to give my opinions upon the subjects spoken of as to draw out yours.

As it has been made the duty of the Recorder to send semi-annually, I believe, a statement of the condition, number of members, &c., of this chapter, I now give the following sketch:

Our chapter consists of Thompson L. Brown, President, Henry Snow, Thos. G. Mitchell, John Zachos, John L. Scott, Manley Chapin, T. Stanley Matthews, now in Tennessee, Alex. Paddack, now in Mississippi, Jacob Burnet, now in Michigan on a visit, Harvey, now some place, and John H. Jones, Recorder.

Our regular exercises are written essays and conversations upon the subjects presented in them. Our anniversary will take place on the 8th of April, when T. G. Mitchell will deliver the address. If any of your members could come down, we should be very glad to see them.

ARCHIBALD W. HAMILTON, HARVARD, TO E. BRUCE STEVENS,
MIAMI.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS., April, 5, 1843.

If I remember right, you are indebted to me a letter, and strict propriety would forbid me to *perpetrate* a *second* upon the kindness of a friend; but, as a matter of *business*, I feel at liberty to write this.

I have been in this University but a short time; still, from what I can see and learn, I believe it is an excellent place to locate a chapter of our society, and as I can easily do it, I think the society had better invest me with power (if they have not already done so). By looking to the minutes of your chapter you will see, and inform me. You remember I spoke of taking an Eastern trip whilst at college, and I was then appointed a committee to organize chapters. I do not now remember what places were named, but I rather think I had *discretionary power* to locate them wherever I could find a suitable place. I am a student of the law department, and will remain here *one* year or more. During that time and before I return to Kentucky, I will visit most of the colleges and places suitable for locating chapters, and will have no doubt more opportunities than this one of erecting our noble standard. I mention these facts to your own chapter, and they can do as they think best. If they wish to avail themselves of my services, I need hardly say that I will take great pleasure in forwarding their interests wherever I can.

But to another subject—I received a letter a day or two be-

fore I left home from our friend Wilson, informing me that the chapter contemplated holding a *public* anniversary at your next commencement; that the *graduated* members would avow themselves, but the others would still remain secret. I have not answered his letter yet, but will in a very short time, and then I will write my views in full. This measure is one of importance, and should not be adopted without due consideration, and then not without the consent of the graduated members.

You know the uncompromising sternness with which the Miami delegation contended in the convention against allowing any chapter to reveal even its own existence. I still, as one of the delegation maintain very solemn convictions of the truth of that proposition. I believe that secrecy—eternal secrecy—is our strong-hold—particularly at Oxford where every thing is arrayed against secret societies. This would be the first step toward revealing the existence of the Oxford chapter. All the graduated members would be known as "Betas." The students would know who of them the present members were intimate with. You would be watched so a clue would be made to find out the present members, and thus the whole would be known. It would soon be thought proper that the *present* members proclaim themselves, and the whole would raise a great excitement in college. You would then be put out of the societies like the Alphas. If not, the Alpha clause would be repealed in the societies. And so you would bring trouble upon yourselves. No! Bruce, my dear fellow, secrecy is our strength; and every thing which tends to break that golden mystery, is dangerous to our welfare.

But one thing more. How do you know all the absent members want to be known as members of a secret society. Our society will appear to a bad advantage unless all the graduated men are known.

Consider these things and act prudently.

I came off and forgot to bring a *copy* of the *constitution*. I must therefore, request you to send me a copy, and also a copy of the proceedings of the triennial convention. Send them as soon as you can, that I may not delay.

JOHN REILY KNOX, FOUNDER, TO E. B. STEVENS, MIAMI

GREENVILLE, O., April 14, 1843.

I suppose, my dear fellow, that long ere this you have given me up as a correspondent, and set me down in your list as "faithless." I am in truth an inveterate procrastinator, and though no one can take greater pleasure in receiving letters than I do, yet no one can be more dilatory in his answers. But as you, of course, have a right to expect a "*quid pro quo*," I must desert my Castle of Indolence, and do something to call you out. So I have concluded to have done with this putting off—this eternal "to-morrow—and to-morrow—and to-morrow." Let me say this much, however, that your letter would have been answered immediately, had I not expected to go to Oxford soon after I received it, in which case I would have answered it face to face, which, to a person of my lazy habits, would have been much the more agreeable way of the two. But in this, I was disappointed, and the consequence is, that your letter has been lying in my drawer unanswered. It was a sad thing for my poor conscience to look into that drawer, for there the letter was, staring like "*Banquo's* ghost," and would not down.

You say you would like to hear from me on the subject of the first movements of the Beta Theta Pi.⁶ I have endeavored for some time to make a little record of the early days of the Society for my own satisfaction, as much as anything, but I have never succeeded in getting started—like many of my other dreams, "'twas all a dream." Many of the circumstances have escaped my recollection in the course of my peregrinations for the last four years. I can but give you an imperfect sketch, therefore, and you must accordingly take the will for the deed.

To begin with the beginning, it was during the winter session '38-9, that the idea of forming a secret association first suggested

6. It would seem that this account of the origin of Beta Theta Pi, written within four years after the foundation of the fraternity, would be much more accurate than that contained in the "Recollections of 1839" written for the convention of 1873, thirty years later; and we think that greater credence should be given to the statements in this letter than to those of the recollections referred to; but we preferred to insert this letter in its proper place in chronological order in the series rather than to take it out of its place, especially as Brother Knox intended the recollections written by him in 1873 to be the authoritative account of the foundation of the fraternity.

itself to my mind. I saw that there were many advantages in such an association, which could not otherwise be enjoyed. Such combinations of individuals are as old as the wants of man, and coeval with the growth of literature. The motto of our own Society "*Firmam consensus facit*," is but an embodiment of the experience of a man in all ages and nations.

The history of many of these secret associations had always possessed a charm for me. There was an interest about the actions of men who bound themselves together by vows which were never broken, and who pursued the great objects of their association with an energy that never tired, with a zeal that knew not self, and with a devotedness that never counted gold. Men have been found among them who labored "from morn till night, from youth to hoary age," in one cause and for one object. Revolutions have been accomplished and despots dethroned by the united action of small but daring associations. The great secret of their success consisted not in numbers, but in union; not in great strength, but in well directed and simultaneous exertions. What a few men united in object and effort *will* to do *can* be done; and more than that, such associations teach us in their records how far human friendship can carry us from the shrine of the idol "self." * * * * In some of these societies, however, were to be found many objectionable features which rendered them liable to be used as engines of evil, as well as instruments of good. Some of these were to be found in the Alpha Delta Phi Society as it was organized at Miami University, and I imagined that an association might be formed which would embrace the good without the ingredient of evil. My attention was drawn more forcibly to this by the dissension then existing in the Union Hall, which I conceived originated in the Alpha Society. In some of our conversations on the subject, Taylor Marshall suggested the idea of building up a Society which might unite the benefits without the disadvantages of the Alphas. I told him I had thought of it, but was afraid that we could not succeed. But if you know Marshall, I need not tell you that he is one of the most sanguine men in existence. The idea once started, he would not give it up until I set to work.

In the first place, I got the Greek Lexicon and turned it over several times in search of a name. The present one was finally

selected. Then came the badge. This was more difficult than the other. You have seen the first pins that were struck. In place of the Crescent we first agreed on "clasped hands"—but this Taylor had altered when he went to the city to procure the pins. However, the badge has been changed—for the better, I hope. I have never seen the new one. We then went to work on the Constitution. You have seen the draught as it was originally presented. On that I spent my leisure time for a week or more—and many were the long consultations which Taylor and I held over that—night after night up in "the old wing" we revised and re-revised, until we got it to our satisfaction, though necessarily imperfect, for it was altogether an experiment with me, as I had nothing to go by but imagination, and I believe Taylor was equally inexperienced. The next question was, who shall we connect with us in this matter? Chas. Hardin roomed next door to Marshall, so we called him in, and I initiated him and Taylor Marshall.

* * * * *

A circumstance occurred at this time that came near breaking up the whole affair. Taylor had foolishly enough mentioned something of the affair to a chap whom you no doubt know by reputation—Grimke Swan—an insufferable bore, and a man that I cordially detested; he was, indeed, generally disliked. He found out entirely too much about our proceedings, and was determined to be initiated or expose us. He also knew that pins had been sent for, and T. had told him that Linton and Hardin were members. To take him would be to bring a perfect incubus on the Society. I doubt, indeed, if we could have procured another member had he been brought in; and on the other hand, were he to expose us, that, also, at that time, would have been *certain death*. Accordingly Linton, Hardin, Marshall and myself met in Charley's room, and concluded to give a mock initiation; let him pay for a pin, and have nothing more to do with him.

Taylor went and brought him in, and I got up and administered an oath to him with all the solemnity of an owl. I told him then that the Society of which he was a member had no written Constitution—that we were to have no more meetings, and take no more members, &c., &c. I then gave him some advice about wearing his pin, &c., all of which he took as law and gospel.

He left at the close of the session, and what became of him is more than I know.

After we were fairly rid of him, we proceeded in the selection of members. J. H. Duncan, M. C. Ryan, Tom Gordon and H. H. Johnson were then initiated at successive meetings of the Society, until we got our complement (9), when we met in general conclave, and proceeded to the election of officers. The rest of the acts of the Beta Theta Pi, are they not written in the book of the Chronicles of that Society? *Esto perpetua*.

I have thus endeavored, my dear Stevens, to give you a sketch of the early days of our Association; it is imperfect, but correct as far as it goes. I had many other things which I wished to write about, but I find myself rather short of paper—so that I must wait till a further occasion.

NOTE—The parts marked by stars (*) are torn from the original manuscript, by use and old age.

ARCHIBALD W. HAMILTON, HARVARD, TO EDWARD BRUCE
STEVENS, MIAMI

CAMBRIDGE, MASS, May 19, 1843.

I received your letter with the accompanying documents a few days since, and in reply must assure you of the gratification it afforded me to know of your favorable consideration of the proposed plan of operations. It will not, I am certain, be accomplished without difficulty; and, perhaps, more than I anticipated when I wrote to you. The Alphas, I have since learned, have a chapter here; the "Phi Beta Kappa" has one; and besides there are several small clubs, the "nature and objects" of which I know but little about.

These throw difficulties in the way, and I will be compelled to proceed more cautiously than I otherwise would if the circumstances were different. If a chapter is established here it should be on a very elevated scale or not at all. This, it is true, should be the character of every chapter; but especially of all the chapters in these Eastern colleges. And if I establish any, be assured that they shall be of that character if I am any judge. I shall wait until I get my authority from the different chapters through you. This will be the most judicious way to proceed; and when

you write to the chapters, requesting this authority, you had better get the power for *the Miami chapter*, and *not* for me or any other person; and then, if I should not succeed, you can delegate it to any one else; but you see, if the power is got for me, no other person can exercise it.

One word on the subject of "discretionary power"—You have misunderstood me in supposing that I think your chapter or any other one could give me such power without the consent of other existing chapters. While a recorder of the Miami chapter, I recollect correcting the Hudson chapter on this very point. And when I asked you to refer to the early minutes of your chapter, to see if this power had not been given me, I meant those minutes prior to the existence of any other chapter. Before a single chapter had been established (perhaps the Cincinnati excepted, and if she was in existence her consent was obtained), I spoke of going to some Eastern institution, and I think that power was given to me; but I may be mistaken—perhaps I am.

I am glad to hear of Thos. Moore's initiation; he is a glorious fellow. Ask him if he recollects our walk on commencement day to the creek? Give him my fraternal greetings. I also think very highly of the election of Harry Taylor; and if he is initiated, extend the same gratulations to him.

Well Bruce, you will leave old Miami soon; and be sure you leave the interests of the B Θ Π in good hands. A responsibility is on you which you must see to, and I know you will do it.

EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES OF THE BETA THETA Π

MIAMI UNIVERSITY, June 5th, 1843.

Called meeting of the Miami Chapter of the Beta Theta Π object to take into consideration the death of Mr. Mitchell of Cincinnati.

On motion, Messrs. Taylor and Stevens were appointed a committee to draft and report by the next meeting, resolutions expressive of our feeling.

June 8th.

The Committee offered the following which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, This Society has learned with deep and unfeigned

regret, the death of Thomas G. Mitchell, Esquire, a resident member of the Cincinnati Chapter of the Association, therefore as a slight memento of our feeling upon that occasion.

Resolved, That in the decease of Thomas G. Mitchell this Chapter feels the Society has lost an ornament which was soon to be acknowledged and admired; his friends are bereaved indeed; the Cincinnati Chapter of Beta Theta Pi has been deprived of a valuable member, a rare gem of talents; and *we* have lost a brother.

Resolved, That we deeply sympathize with the relatives of Mr. Mitchell, and with our Cincinnati brethren, upon this the first choice that Providence has seen proper to select from our little band.

Resolved, That a copy of these minutes and resolutions be forwarded to the Cincinnati Chapter.

EDWARD B. STEVENS,

HENRY TAYLOR,

On motion Chapter adjourned.

Committee.

THOMAS W. MOORE,

President.

FROM E. B. STEVENS, MIAMI, TO HENRY SNOW, CINCINNATI

MIAMI UNIVERSITY, June 11, 1843.

On another part of this I have sent you the action of our Chapter upon the death of Mr. Mitchell. I do not know whether it will seem appropriate to you, but as we had no precedent, it was considered best to simply make an expression of feeling.

I have no news to communicate of importance, since I last wrote, we have elected into our fraternity

Mr. John T. DuBois, Franklin, Ohio, who will make an addition to the brotherhood that we will not be ashamed of.

Hamilton wrote a few days since—he has not commenced operations yet, but is only reconnoitering the ground—By the way, I would ask if the power of establishing those new chapters was granted to our chapter or only to Mr. Hamilton, if to our Chapter it can be exercised at any future time, should Mr. H. fail.

Do you remember a certain article written by George E.

Pugh⁷ on the last August commencement (in the *Enquirer*) and in it the Beta Theta Pi was alluded to? If you do, can you lay hold of a copy of that paper? If you can, I should like very to see it.

Will you be up this fall or any of your chapter? Write soon to your friend and brother Beta.

ARCHIBALD W. HAMILTON, HARVARD, TO E. BRUCE STEVENS,
MIAMI

CAMBRIDGE, MASS., June 23, 1843.

I write you this in great haste, informing you that I have every arrangement necessary to locate a chapter here; but have *not* yet received the *power to do so*. Two chapters, the Athens chapter and the Cincinnati chapter, have given me power; but I have not heard a word from any of the others. In my last to you I mentioned that I would let your chapter get the power for me in your *own name*, and if I did not succeed in locating a chapter, you would have the power and could delegate it to some one else. I do not know whether you understood me on that point or not—the silence of all the chapters, except those mentioned above, induced me to think you have not. If you have not already, I think you had better carry out my idea, and write to the other chapters and obtain the power in your *name*, or at least on your *recommendation*, and let them convey their assent to me. I have not a doubt but that I *can* and *will* succeed in establishing a chapter here (and that a good one, too); but the chapters not knowing me may have some fears of entrusting it to me unless through your recommendation. This may be the secret of their silence.

I wish you to attend to it *immediately*. I could have established a chapter here long since had I possessed the *power*. I am acquainted with some young men who would be an honor to our society, and who would jump at such a proposition; but my hands are *tied* for want of power. I hope you will not delay, as I am anxious to do the work—and that quickly. I know you are anxiously waiting to hear from me, and I am now anxious to convey the "glad tidings" to you and the brethren generally. Snow,

7. George E. Pugh referred to was a member of Alpha Delta Phi at Miami.

recorder of the Cincinnati chapter, wrote me a glorious letter with the assent of his chapter. He is greatly in favor of the work, and so we should all be.

This is only intended to inform you of my position, etc., and to urge your duty upon your notice; so I will make my bow and close with my regards to the brethren and assurance of continued friendship to yourself, etc.,

ARCHIBALD W. HAMILTON, HARVARD, TO E. BRUCE STEVENS,
MIAMI

CAMBRIDGE, MASS., September 9, 1843.

I have, at length, the gratification of informing you of the establishment of a chapter of the association in Harvard University. The execution of the work has been somewhat delayed; but it was owing to the fact that I did not get the sanction of the chapters sooner.

I flatter myself that a chapter has been established, of which the association will always derive honor from being connected with; and I can give the utmost assurance that the present members will be found to possess the necessary qualifications of feeling and talents, and that they will always be ready to divide them in an eminent degree to the promotion of the object of the association. She commences with prospects very flattering, and I trust she will be able to render them much more so in the future.

The chapter is organized under the title of the "Harvard chapter," and dates from the 5th of September. She sends her friendship to your chapter, and requests the fellowship and correspondence of the chapter.

Charles Stuart McRae, Esq., has been elected Recorder, and you may consider this *official* report of mine as the first communication of this chapter to yours. Your Recorder, in reply to this, will be kind enough to send to him a list of your members, and also the names of the recorders of the other chapters.

Present my acknowledgments to the chapter for the confidence reposed in me, and my gratification at the success of its fulfillment.

Please let us know the order of time in which this chapter stands—I think it is the 7th.⁸

⁸ He was correct in his assumption and the alphabetical designation of the chapter in regular order was Eta.

FROM WM. B. WOODS, WESTERN RESERVE, TO JAMES BROWN,
MIAMI

HUDSON, OHIO, Dec. 9, 1843.

A feeling of gratitude toward the Miami chapter will ever be cherished by this chapter, notwithstanding its many deficiencies in other respects. We are conscious of our many sins of omission; we plead guilty of sundry offenses and misdemeanors, and we have no excuse. We can only say that we are repentant, and that we will endeavor in future, should the court pardon us, to be more punctual. Last spring we received a letter from Mr. E. B. Stevens, Recorder of your chapter, requesting our assent to the plan of forming a chapter in Harvard University. To this plan we assented, and an answer was written by Mr. Paine. Since that time not one letter has been received by us from Oxford. In a letter from Mr. Jones, the Cincinnati Recorder, we are told that a gentleman by the name of Dubois had become a Beta at Oxford. Accordingly we wrote last week to "Mr. Dubois, or Mr. T. W. Moore," who, we perceived, by reference to our list of members, was a resident of Oxford. Yesterday we received a letter from Mr. A. W. Hamilton, of the Harvard chapter, informing us that you were anxious to renew our correspondence, and that you, my dear sir, were Recorder. Mr. Stevens, in his last, spoke of your chapter so despondingly that we feared for the safety of the old parent. But, praise be God! Mr. Jones informed us that you were doing well. Go on then, say we, brothers of Oxford, maintaining your high stand among the chapters. "Let your light shine among men," and to do this it is only necessary to let us hear now and then from you by letter. Let us not again be left in such complete darkness concerning each others condition and prospects. To you I write to-day fearing that my last may miscarry. We wish a complete list of the members of the Alpha chapter with their residences; also, the history of your chapter, the date of formation, the circumstances that led to its formation, the profession and an account of the founders to whom we all owe so much, and information whether there are chapters in Danville, Ky., and Tuscaloosa, Ala., also an account of your present condition and prospects. We should like very much to know what your proceedings are, how often you

meet, etc., and so on. This chapter's prospects are excellent.

The W. R. College chapter, of the Alpha Delta Phi, is deceased.⁹ Only three members remain on the ground, and they care more for their studies than for the society—however little for either. They hold no meetings and they intend to make no further appointments. Our society is deservedly popular among the students. Instead of pursuing the narrow course the Alphas did, we allow the students to understand that our object is not merely self aggrandizement, but literary and social improvement. It is therefore an object to become a Beta, and there being no *Constitutional* limit of numbers, everyone feels that he may gain his desired object if he is worthy. How few, however, do we consider worthy! for on our selectness (allow me the expression) depends our existence. The moment we open any wider the door, that moment we die. We believe our standard of qualification for membership is as high as in any other chapter. Our meetings are held once in three weeks, on Tuesday evening, at which time we listen to two essays from members, and two reviews of former essays. Anonymous productions, poems, etc., are occasionally read by the Recorder. In addition to the constitutional officers we have a Vice-President and a Marshal. The Marshal keeps the door, introduces new members, &c. Such is our system, and we find that our meetings are agreeable and instructive. We all feel deeply for the success and prosperity of the society, and on this account we felt great regret when we learned the position of Delta Chapter. Shotwell and John Safford, sole remaining members of the Athens chapter! It would be a sad stroke of fate to cut off so promising a chapter in the prime of life. We were called quite pleasantly a few days ago to the recollection of our duties as Betas, by the visit of Mr. Wm. M. Houston, of the Zeta chapter. How beautiful is our system—uniting together many a congenial soul, and many a kindred spirit, drawing more closely round each heart the bonds of love. How our hearts will beat, and what emotions will overcome us, when in after life

9. He was incorrect. The chapter of Alpha Delta Phi did not then become inactive. It was quite common in those early days of fraternities with a small and fluctuating membership, for rival fraternities, and others, to assume that a chapter had become inactive because its membership had dwindled to a small number, but the vitality of the different fraternity chapters was remarkable and it was frequently thought that a chapter had died when such was not really the case.

we see some brother bearing the badge. What hallowed recollections will endear us to our stately edifice. Masonry and Odd-fellowship have their friends and supporters. Let our beloved fraternity have its lovers. How often in after days, when the spirit, panting for the waters of peace, enduring suffering and want, as well nigh ready to give up in despair, will a brother Beta administer consolation, and call to the mind recollections of far different scenes. Let every brother of the mystic tie repose implicit confidence in his brethren, that by a closer union of hearts we may make life more sweet.

Has the Miami chapter ever divulged its existence? It is important for us to know.

JOSEPH R. WILSON,¹⁰ JEFFERSON, TO JAMES BROWN, MIAMI.

CANNONSBURG, PA., November 17, 1843.

Your letter of August last came duly to hand. Were it not that an apology for my remissness in answering it would probably not add anything which would extenuate the offense, I would recite a whole category of difficulties that stood in the way, such as, having nothing important to communicate; pressure of other engagements not more pleasant in the performance, but demanding more immediate attention, etc. But I wonder how I have so long foregone the pleasure of such a correspondence as that between a *child* and *parents* is so calculated to give. The anxiety of your chapter for the welfare and success of others which are the emanations of yours, is natural; and if my delay—unwarranted, as it has been, by the rest of the chapter—has had any tendency to increase this anxiety, when I tell you that it is now prosperous and flourishing as well as circumstances will permit, it is to be hoped that quite another feeling will occupy your hearts. We trust that we have not clouded the

10. Joseph R. Wilson was a Presbyterian clergyman of great prominence. He became one of the leading clergymen in the Southern Presbyterian Church. He was professor in Hampden-Sidney College from 1851 to 1855, and promoted the organization of the chapter of the fraternity in that college; he was pastor of many prominent churches in the South at various places, was Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Church for many years, and its Moderator during one term. He was also for a number of years Professor in the Theological Seminary at Columbia, South Carolina. (He was the father of Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States.)

gem that forms the central glory of our badge; and we will endeavor to desire, with others of our brethren, the crowning wealth which surrounds it; but the pregnant future will ere long tell its tale for us all—and when, from the various parts of our land, years hence, illustrious “B’s” meet in the active duties of life, may it be with a heart and zeal which will insure large success to our objects, and redound to the high honor of our dear beloved association.

We, in common with you, look forward with anxiety to that time when *action* shall be our watchword and *new* effects from this now secret cause shall begin to unfold themselves in the world, surprising but gratifying *good* men, whose prayers *must* be with us. It is a sacred cause, that in which we are engaged, and well does it deserve a union of the firm feelings of the heart with the high energies of the mind to accomplish it. Already have members gone forth from the midst of our young association—and how anxiously will we watch their progress! *They* are to strike the first blow—and may the God of Heaven direct their aim!

We are right glad that your chapter is flourishing—and that you are “in the Spirit.” How could it be otherwise? Last session we numbered twelve, but are now reduced to seven; one of whom has lately come from the Athens chapter. His name is M. S. Latham. We welcomed him as a dear brother, and will cherish him as such. Poor Athens! one star is stricken out of your fair firmament.

Since we last informed you of our state we have received *two* new members—*Joshua T. Owen*¹¹ of Baltimore, and *James L. Rogers* of Connellsville, Pa.,—both Juniors.

At Dickinson, no movement has been made for establishing a chapter. An opportunity has not yet offered itself. The contemplated Pittsburg chapter has not yet been established, either. We have been able to find none that would suit our ideas of what B’s

11. Joshua T. Owen became a very prominent citizen of Pennsylvania. During the war he rose to be a brigadier general, and after the war, devoted himself to the establishment of daily periodicals in Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York, to chronicle the doings of the law courts in those cities, publishing legal decisions of the courts, their calendars, the appointment of the judges, and carrying legal announcements, originating an entirely new style of periodical and occupying an entirely new field in journalism.

ought to be. We will, however, do what we can as soon as possible. From *Princeton* we have not yet heard officially, but by a letter from a brother in the East, we understand that some little progress has been made. The thing, then, is in good hands.¹²

At Harvard, Mr. Hamilton, late of the Miami chapter, has succeeded in making some progress—what, though, he has not definitely informed us. Charles Stuart McKae has been elected Recorder, however, Hamilton informed us—and he thinks, judging from the circumstances under which it has had its birth, the chapter there will certainly flourish. Success to it.

Please tender to the Oxford chapter the warmest wishes of ours for its success and advancement.

WM. B. WOODS,¹³ WESTERN RESERVE, TO THOMAS W. MOORE,
MIAMI

GAMMA CHAPTER,
HUDSON, O., November 27, 1843.

Will you be so good as to put this letter into the hands of the recorder of the chapter at Oxford. To him, through you, I address this letter. In a letter received from Mr. John H. Jones, recorder Cincinnati chapter Beta Theta Pi, we are informed "that there is a member of the Oxford chapter by the name of Dubois, his first name I know not." We take this first and only opportunity which has occurred to write you. We have addressed repeated inquiries to different chapters concerning you, not knowing to whom to address a letter; but at last the "hour and the man" have come. Deeply have we felt the want of a continued correspondence with the parent chapter, and deeply have we regretted the negligence of some of our recorders who have suffered us to become estranged from you. The condition

12. The Princeton chapter actually was organized November 2nd, 1843, as will be learned from the subsequent letter in this series.

13. William B. Woods, the writer of this letter, had a remarkable career, deserving of note. Prior to the war, he was a member of the Ohio Legislature and its Speaker for two years. At the outbreak of the war he organized a regiment of volunteers and became its colonel. He commanded a division in Sherman's March to the sea and finally rose to the rank of Major General in the Union Army. He moved first to Alabama and then to Georgia, after the war, and served for a number of years as United States Circuit Judge, and in 1880 became an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, serving until his death in 1887.

of this chapter is excellent. The clouds that concealed the sun from our eyes in days gone by have been wafted from the skies by the breezes of prosperity.

The Hudson chapter of the Alpha Delta Phi is dead, but three of its members are on the ground, besides the members in our faculty. They have passed a resolution not to make any appointments in the future—reasons: the unpopularity of the society; the inability to get members of the right stamp to join them; and the success of the Gamma chapter, Beta Theta Pi. How do the Alphas at Oxford flourish? The last letter received from Oxford was from Mr. Edward B. Stevens; it contained a list of members, and it spoke very discouragingly of the prospects of the chapter. From Mr. Jones' account we infer that times have changed.

We should like to have you, Mr. Recorder, sit down and answer this letter *immediately*, so that the answer can reach us this collegiate term, which will end in two or three weeks. We wish to know the date of the formation of the Alpha chapter of the Beta Theta Pi. We wish to obtain a list of all the members from the beginning *with their residence*. We have a partial list, but we do not know the residence of but five or six. We wish to know the circumstances of the formation of the society, the present condition and profession of the founders, in whom we feel deeply interested. We wish to know about the present condition and prospects of the chapter. Has it divulged its existence? and all other information you can give will be pleasing to us. Are there chapters at Danville, Ky., Tuscaloosa, Ala., and Cambridge, Mass.? *et cetera*, and so on.

The present condition of this chapter is very good. We have ten members on the ground; there is room for further increase; but we wish to preserve our society as choice as possible, and we find that ten is a number large enough in all conscience. Our meetings occur once in three weeks, on Tuesday evening, at which we read essays and reviews; two essays being read by the members in alphabetical order, or, each member having some department of essay writing which he chooses, and two reviewers of essays read before being appointed by the President. We have also a Vice-President and a Marshal in addition to the officers prescribed in the constitution.

Our meetings are rendered deeply interesting by the zeal of the members; and, egotism apart, I must speak a good word for my chapter. We had a visit lately from Mr. Wm. M. Houston, of the Zeta chapter. He says the prospects of the chapter at Jefferson College are excellent. Mr. Joseph R. Wilson, I believe, is recorder. We recommend Mr. Houston as a genuine warm-hearted Beta. The course of the society, I hope and trust, will ever be onward. As far as the Hudson chapter is concerned, I venture to promise an untiring devotion to the interests of the society.

The names of our members are as follows; those marked thus, *, absent:

*B. F. MILLARD, Adrian, Mich.
 *S. R. BISSELL, *A. B.*, Milan, O.
 *WM. H. UPSON, *A. B.*, Tallmadge, O.
 *F. H. BUCK, Poland, O.
 *J. N. DIXON, Fairfield, O.
 *J. D. CLEVELAND, St. Louis, Mo.
 TRACY M. OVIATT, *A. B.*, Richfield, O.
 S. M. BURTON, *A. B.*, Westfield, N. Y.
 WM. S. AUMOCK, Columbus, O.
 GEO. HOADLY, JR., Cleveland, O.
 L. BISSELL, Milan, O.
 H. C. GAYLORD, Cleveland, O.
 H. E. PAINE, Chardon, O.
 WM. B. WOODS, Newark, O.
 EBENEZER BUSHNELL, Newark, O.
 JOHN NEWBERRY, Cuyahoga Falls, O.

Mr. Aumock is president, Mr. Paine Vice-President, Mr. Bissell, Marshal. Messrs. Burton and Oviatt belong to the Theological Department.

By the way Mr. Houston told us an incident at Canonsburg worth mentioning. Mr. Noah D. Wright, an Alpha Delta Phi, called on a Beta, and labored long and earnestly to get him to help him form a chapter at Jefferson. It seems his contemplated members were all Betas; but he went away disgusted, and finally gave up his project. The members of the Hudson chapter send their best respects and kindest wishes to the members of the Oxford chapter.

GEORGE HOADLY, WESTERN RESERVE, TO BENJ. F. MILLARD, AT
ADRIAN, MICHIGAN

HUDSON, OHIO, January 20, 1844.

I am instructed by our chapter of the Beta Theta Pi to forward to you and to each one of its absent members, a catalogue of the society, I hope you will recollect to be very cautious and not let it be seen. The prospects of the chapter and of all other chapters are good and everything looks bright before us. The Hudson chapter send their best respects and warmest wishes to you and to theirs.

MIAMI CHAPTER, OXFORD, OHIO, FOUNDED AUG. 8TH, 1839

Names and residences perfect—AB's and AM's defective.
James J. Berry, AB., Maysville, Ky.; Wm. E. Blackburn, AB., Woodford Co., Ky.; James Brown, Butler Co., Ohio; John A. Collins, AB., Maysville, Ky.; John T. Dubois, Xenia, Ohio; John H. Duncan, AB., Fayette, Miss.; Thomas B. Gordon, AB., Elbert Co., Georgia; A. W. Hamilton, AB., Mt. Sterling, Ky. (now in Heidleberg, Germany); Thomas Harbine, Clear Spring, Md.; C. H. Hardin, AM., Columbia, Mo.; H. H. Johnston, Circleville, Ohio; Wm. Jamison, Franklin Co., Ohio; John R. Knox, AM., Butler Co., Ohio; James Liggett, Warren Co., Ohio; David Linton, Clinton, Ohio; James Long, Union Co., Ind.; David Mack, Preble Co., Ohio; S. T. Marshall, Iowa; Wm. S. Martin, Bourbon Co., Ky.; Rodney Mason, Springfield, Ohio; Daniel McClary, Hamilton, Ohio; James T. Moore, Oxford, Ohio; Thomas W. Moore, Oxford, Ohio; John Ogle, Butler Co., Ohio; Alex Paddack, AB., New Orleans, La.; S. H. Powe, Wayne Co., Miss.; M. C. Ryan, Hamilton, Ohio; J. G. Smith, Lebanon, Ohio; Edward B. Stevens, AB., Monroe, Ohio; Henry Taylor, Rossville, Ohio; John Thomas, Hamilton, Ohio; John Van Eaton, Xenia, Ohio; Wm. Warder, Springfield, Ohio; John Whitney, Jefferson Co., Miss.; O. S. Witherby, Hamilton, Ohio; R. W. Wilson, Oxford, Ohio.

In all, this chapter numbers thirty-six, five on the ground, *vis.*: Messrs. Long, Dubois, Brown, J. T. Moore and Van Eaton, Mr. Brown, Recorder.

CINCINNATI CHAPTER, CINCINNATI, OHIO, Founded April 8th,
1840

This list is defective in every respect, those marked thus present.*

* Joshua H. Bates, late U. S. A., Cincinnati, Ohio; * Thomas L. Brown, Cincinnati, Ohio; Henry Beard, AB., Zanesville, Ohio; * Jacob Burnett, Jr., Cincinnati, Ohio; Manly Chapin; Stephen Gano; Louis P. Harvey, South Port, W. T. (Wisconsin Territory); * John H. Jones (Recorder), Cincinnati, Ohio; T. Stanley Mathews, Cincinnati, Ohio; * T. G. Mitchell, Cincinnati, Ohio; Jno. L. Scott, LaFayette, La.; * Henry Snow, AM. (Prof.), Cincinnati, Ohio; * H. H. Sperry, Cincinnati, Ohio; C. T. Worthington, Cincinnati, Ohio; * John C. Zachos, AB., Cincinnati, Ohio.

HUDSON CHAPTER, FOUNDED AUGUST 26, 1841.

List completed, those marked thus * present.

* Wm. S. Aumock, Columbus, Ohio; * Lemuel Bissell, Milan, Ohio; S. R. Bissell, AB., Milan, Ohio; F. H. Buck, Poland, Ohio; * Ebenezer Bushnell, Newark, Ohio; * S. M. Benton, AB., Westfield, N. Y.; I. D. Cleveland, New Orleans, La.; I. N. Dixon, Fairfield, Ohio; H. C. Gaylord, Cleveland, Ohio; * George Hoadly, Jr., Cleveland, Ohio; Benj. F. Millard, Adrian, Mich.; * John Newberry, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; Tracy M. Oviatt, A. B., Richfield, Ohio; * H. E. Paine (President), Chardon, Ohio; W. H. Upson, A. B., Tallmadge, Ohio; * W. B. Woods, Newark, Ohio.

ATHENS CHAPTER, ATHENS, OHIO, Founded Nov. 9th, 1841.

This list complete, those marked thus * present.

W. W. Bierce, AM., Circleville, Ohio; John A. Brown, Jackson, Ohio; John M. Bush, AB., Charleston, Va.; John Coon, Cleveland, Ohio; Alex. M. Creel, Parkersburg, Va.; Jno. C. Culbertson, AB., Zanesville, Ohio; Charles C. Gilbert, Zanesville, Ohio; Rob't H. Gillmore, AB., Granville, Ohio; Ripley C. Hoffman, Jackson, Ohio; * James Johnson, Arthur, Ohio;

William James Hoge, AB., Gallatin, Ten.; Milton S. Latham, Columbus, Ohio; * L. D. McCabe, AB., Athens, Ohio; Alex. Morrison, Newark, Ohio; Alex. L. Oliver, A.B., Warren Co., Ohio; * James M. Safford (Recorder), Putnam, Ohio; Jefferson P. Safford, AB., Putnam, Ohio; * Wm. Shotwell, Cadiz, Ohio; Geo. B. Wright, Newark, Ohio.

TRANSYLVANIA CHAPTER, LEXINGTON, KY., FOUNDED JAN. 31, 1842.

Daniel Buck, Jr., Richmond, Ky.; Samuel R. Bullock, Lexington, Ky.; Thomas M. Kane, Louisville, Ky.; B. Rush Mitchell, M.D., Lexington, Ky.; Alex. H. Robertson (Recorder), Lexington, Ky.

The above list is incomplete in every respect.

JEFFERSON CHAPTER, CANONSBURG, PA., FOUNDED JUNE 1, 1842.

List complete.

Abr. M. Hendricks, AB., Madison, Ia.; W. M. Houston, AB., Poland, Ohio; J. R. Lowrie, AB., N. Y. City; C. Martin, AB. (Tutor), Martinsburg, Ohio; James Mathews, AB., Pittsburg, Pa.; W. I. McCulloch, AB., Washington City, D. C.; J. S. McMicken, AB., Lycoming Co., Pa.; Ulysses Mercur, AB., Towanda, Pa.; Richard T. Merrick, AB., Charles Co., Md.; Joseph M. Moore, Opelousas, La.; Rob't P. Nevin, AB., Pittsburg, Pa.; Joshua T. Owen, Baltimore, Md.; John P. Penney, AB. (Tutor), McKeesport, Pa.; James L. Rogers, Connellsville, Pa.; W. M. Scott, AB., Princeton, N. J.; Jno. McP. Sullivan, AB., Butler, Pa.; Joseph R. Wilson, Steubenville, Ohio.

Messrs. Penney, Moon, Owen, Rogers, and Wilson of the Jefferson chapter, Rodney Mason of the Miami chapter and Milton S. Latham of the Athens chapter, are now at Canonsburg. Wilson is Recorder.

HARVARD CHAPTER, HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, CAMBRIDGE, MASS., FOUNDED BY A. W. HAMILTON, SEPT. 5, 1843.

List complete.

P. E. Aldrich, LL.B., Tappahannock, Va.; Wm. Baker,

AB., LL.B., Norwalk, Ohio; John G. Marvin, Towanda, Pa.; Charles S. McRae, Pascagoula Bay, Miss.; Wm. W. Peck, AB., Burlington, Vt.

Of this chapter Mr. McRae is recorder.

Leave has been given to the Jefferson chapter to found a chapter at Princeton College through W. M. Scott. I believe he has succeeded but do not as yet know who form the Princeton chapter.

Of the Transylvania chapter we have but little knowledge. I did not know who was recorder until a few days since when I accordingly wrote to him. Our list of that chapter is copied from a list handed us by Mr. Baker of the Harvard chapter last Tuesday when he passed through here. He says our chapter there is good; without a rival, and embracing the best fellows in the Law School. In conclusion I would say to you, God bless and prosper you as a Beta and as a lawyer.

WM. M. SCOTT, PRINCETON, TO JAMES BROWN, MIAMI.

PRINCETON, N. J., Jan. 25, 1844.

I doubt not you are wondering what has become of the Princeton chapter of the Beta Theta Pi, authority for founding which you some time ago granted. We have not reported to you, for various reasons, the recapitulation of which will serve to give you the best idea of our condition and prospects.

The authority reached me near the close of last session, and I selected three to initiate at first, and designed to bring them in before the close of the session; but, owing to the necessary absence of one of the number, it was postponed until the present session. A meeting was appointed and the chapter formed on the first Thursday of November by the admission of those three. For rather more than a month some or all of us were unwell, and at that time one of our best men was unexpectedly called home, leaving us, few as we were, still fewer, and destitute of his popularity and influence.

Our greatest difficulty arises from the jealousy of the members of the two literary societies, which requires the utmost caution in approaching the members of either, and giving us the assurance that if they were made aware of the existence of the

institution, by any rash or false step, they would unite to put it down. We are not afraid of this, but we know also that nothing but "Greek" prudence and Greek fidelity can secure us from it.¹⁴

I subjoin a list of those, at present members:

F. T. BROWN, Logansport, Ind., absent from college.

A. J. GRAHAM, Newark, N. J.

A. ALEX. LITTLE, Fredericksburg, Va., Pres't.

THOMAS MURPHY, New Hartford, N. Y.,

together with your servant, who at present acts as Recorder to the chapter brethren of the parent chapter. It gives us pleasure to offer you our warm right hand, and we ask of you that you would receive it in the same spirit in which it is tendered, and thereby give us a right to the privileges and honor of the flatter ourselves that we shall eventually be able to secure all we should ever be permitted to meet "upon the world's broad field of battle," it will not be as *strangers meet*.

Our only officers are those named in the constitution. Our regular meeting on the first Thursday of every month; exercises, two essays each meeting, and criticisms thereon.

Although we are not yet able to present you with a long list of names, we can assure you of honesty and warm hearts. We flatter ourselves that we shall eventually be able to secure all we desire in regard to members; but we need not tell you that that is not our object. We hope to have it to say that no one hails from the Princeton chapter who shall not be "worthy to wear the badge and bear the name."

I had the pleasure of seeing your old fellow member, Mr. A. W. Hamilton, of Ky., a few days ago on his way West. He made known to me the state and prospects of the Harvard chap-

14. This was the first fraternity chapter ever established at Princeton, and although it did not live very long as will hereafter be seen, yet nevertheless it admitted to the fraternity a number of men whose names we are proud to have on our roll. At the time that the chapter was formed, there were no laws at Princeton against the formation of a college secret society, because the formation of such a society had really not then been contemplated by Princeton's authorities. The antifraternity laws which now exclude the fraternities from Princeton were not enacted until many years afterward, when a number of the fraternities had established chapters, and had excited the animosity of many of the students and the college authorities. Princeton is the only college of importance in which two literary societies of the type which was in universal existence at the time the letter was written now exist.

ter, which he planted in that institution. His stay was so transitory and his engagements so pressing that our acquaintance was but momentary; still it was enough to assure me that he bears not the name unworthily, and to give me another proof, if one were wanting, of the happy effects of our system, which thus can make the newest strangers meet as old and *tried* friends.

Accept, brethren, our greetings and our kindest wishes for your success as gentlemen and as a chapter, and our assurance that to the utmost of our abilities you may rely upon us to carrying out the noble ends of our institution.

CHAPTER III.

FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PRINCETON CHAPTER TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WABASH CHAPTER.

In the spring of 1844, the condition of the fraternity was as follows: The chapters in existence were Alpha, Miami; Beta, Cincinnati; Gamma, Western Reserve; Delta, Ohio; Epsilon, Transylvania; Zeta, Jefferson; Eta, Harvard; and Theta, Princeton. The chapters at Cincinnati, Transylvania, Harvard and Princeton were not really in good condition, although the last mentioned was thought to be by its members. The chapters at Miami, Western Reserve and Ohio had made public their existence; the others probably had not.

In many of the letters to be found in this chapter, there are given the lists of the members in attendance at the several chapters from time to time and this has been done for the purpose of showing how the correspondence was conducted. The copying of the names by persons familiar with them and who did not write plainly resulted many times in names being misspelled and on that account a member being entirely lost sight of. For instance, on the roll of the old Epsilon chapter at Transylvania, appears the name of B. C. Brown, which was so printed in the catalogue of 1859. In the catalogue of 1870, it became transliterated into B. C. Boodon, which is quite easy to do as any one can see by writing the word *Brown* carelessly. Actually the member whose name was thus misspelled and who for many years on that account became lost to the fraternity was Benjamin Gratz Brown, a graduate of Yale in the class of '47, United States Senator from Missouri, Governor of Missouri, candidate for the vice-presidency of the United States on the Greeley ticket in 1872 and a brigadier general of the Volunteers of the Union Army during the Civil War.

FROM JAMES E. GALLOWAY, MIAMI, TO HENRY SNOW, CINCINNATI

I believe it has been quite a year since we have received a communication from the Beta Chapter, and although we have

met with several of its members on various occasions, still we should be very happy to receive a line from that quarter—at least once a year. It has always been the custom of this Chapter after an election has taken place, to inform *all* of the Brotherhood. As you are in our debt, I should not cause you to become more deeply involved by writing this letter, were it not that some of us leave this fall and are very anxious to hear from all of the Chapters, as after we leave our “Alma Mater” we may not have so favorable an opportunity afforded us.

Although I have but little to communicate to you, still it may be some gratification to your Chapter to know how the “Old Lady” is getting along. We number seven this session, two or three not having yet returned and perhaps may not. Long, who was with us last session, has located I believe, out among the “Hoosiers,” where he intends putting up his “law Shingle,” and a new member from Chillicothe on account of sickness will not be with us this summer.

If we do not number as many as we would wish, the *work* must go bravely on. United we are and I hope, ever may press on with eagerness in the race of usefulness to ourselves and society, not that we have but few obstacles, as yet, in our way; still should there ever be any to assail us, we hope to stand united in devotion to the Beta Theta Pi and her objects. And may our Beta never think (as some members of the Alpha Delta Phi Society think) that when once he *sticks our pin* on his bosom that everything is accomplished; but let him look to himself, and relying upon the intrinsic merits of *our* cause, seek to sustain it by that strength and continuity of exertion, by which alone its triumph will be ultimately and unfailingly secured.

To the continued prosperity and usefulness of our beloved association, may we ever look with a confidence and cheerfulness, which cannot be abashed or saddened. Let us ever remember that *ours* is the cause of mind and fellowship, and that having started in its support, to falter would be a disgrace, while ever advancing steps shed new lustre on our beautiful and illumined pathway.

We somewhat fear that the Beta Theta Pi will not flourish so well the next session of college, unless there are some new students arrive whom the chapter may consider worthy of membership.

Four of us (if the faculty are willing) graduate this fall, which will leave but two or three remaining; and after *we* leave, there will not be a Beta in College who is a member of our Hall, and unless we can elect someone from our Society the Alphas may succeed in getting the upperhand of us, since they already number *eight*. But we hope we may yet find someone in the Union Hall, who may battle with the Alphas for any good man or men who may come hereafter.¹

We would be glad to see as many of the Brotherhood, as can come, to hear our anniversary address (from Mr. Ryan). We will give you a hearty greeting, and besides I think we have one of the most interesting commencements there has been for a number of years, as all of the speakers are talented men, viz., Pres. McMasters delivers the anniversary and J. A. Collins the address to the Erodolphians, and Alex. Campbell the one to the Union Society and Sam Parker addresses our graduates.

Since it is the duty of Recorder to send, semi-annually, a statement of the condition, number of members, etc., I will give you the following sketch:

John T. DuBois, a Senior, Franklin, O.

James T. Moore, absent, a Senior, Rising Sun, O.

James D. Liggett, President, a Senior, Xenia, O.

James E. Galloway, a Senior, Xenia, O.

Wm. Shotwell from the Athens Chapter, Senior, Cadiz, O.

Henry Taylor, a Junior, Rossville, O.

John W. Herron, a Junior, Chillicothe, O.

Charles Ward Gillmore, absent, a Sophomore, Chillicothe, O.

Our exercises are written essays and conversation upon the matter presented in them. But I must close. Write soon.

GEO. HOADLY, WESTERN RESERVE, TO JAMES E. GALLOWAY,
MIAMI.

CLEVELAND, May 13, 1844.

With pleasure, I yesterday received Mr. Brown's letter

1. The anxiety of the Betas at the different colleges for the success of the literary societies to which they belonged shows how important these societies were in the life of the colleges at that time. It was not until the fraternities became numerous and the number of members in each chapter attained respectable proportions so as to take up a large number of the students in each college, that the literary societies visibly declined.

dated April 4, which, owing to its being forwarded to me from Hudson, has been somewhat delayed. I hope that while we perform the duties of recorders, our intercourse may be frequent and pleasant. At the close of the last collegiate session, the Hudson chapter was deprived of one of its most valuable members by the stern decrees of Providence. While we mourn, with heartfelt sorrow, his loss from our ranks we still console ourselves with the thought that he has taken unto himself the better part, of which he cannot be deprived.

Since my last letter, we have made no additions to our chapter, and our would-be rival is in the same condition. Our members on the ground next session, will be Messrs. Aumock, Bissell, Bushrell, Gaylord, Hoadly, Newberry, Paine and Woods, of the college department, and the Rev. S. M. Barton, resident licentiate. Our members are in excellent spirits, full of zeal and animation in the good cause of—*kai*—, and would gladly meet one or all of the Oxford Betas at our college hall or elsewhere. With the Alphas, defeated and dispirited as they are, we have no intercourse, and for them feel no pity. Like you, we have had an annual battle with them, and the result has well nigh left them to despair.

Each literary society has a representative on the commencement stage, elected out of the junior class. Last year the students, indignant at the usurpation of every post of honor in college by the Alpha Delta Phi, rose and put them down. This year the Alphas made one last attempt to regain their lost position, but were again defeated.

Mr. Woods was elected from the Phi Delta Society, there being but four votes against him, cast by Alphas and their tools, and Mr. Paine, from the Philozetian Society, by a two-thirds vote. Their reputation was here at stake, and thanks to their folly, they can never again injure us. Their falsehood and prevarication has made them the despised of all.

During a late visit to Cincinnati I heard some information, which Mr. Jones, the recorder, promised to communicate to you. He may not yet have done it, and I think it too important to withhold. During the past spring, Mr. Jones became aware of the existence of a secret society, formed by Mr. Bradbury, a graduate, I believe, of Oxford, which, *he feared*, extended

to Oxford; it is called the Sigma Alpha Omicron,² its motto, which Mr. J. discovered most fortunately, is *Sophia Arete O*—. The other word has escaped my memory, and a student in vacation hasn't always a lexicon about him; the English of the whole phrase was "Wisdom and Virtue our guides." By writing to Mr. J., you can probably ascertain more about it.

I also visited Lexington, Ky., and there I met with the Transylvania chapter embodied in the person of Mr. S. R. Bullock. Mr. A. H. Robertson, the only other resident member had gone on to Baltimore to attend the Convention. Mr. Bullock informed me, that such was the condition of the Lexington Law School, that it was judged inexpedient to admit members and to hold meetings, and it has consequently been lifeless for some time. He, however, promised, *if possible*, to engraft that chapter upon the college department of the University which is now in an excellent condition, instead of continuing it in the fluctuating law school. He promised to see this done as soon as Mr. R. returned.³

Since my last, nothing has taken place in Hudson, excepting, perhaps, the Societies' elections, to vary our course or disturb us in the even tenor of our way. Conscious of our superiority to the Alphas, we are confident of the support of every student whose aid is desirable, and without egotism, we can justly boast of our triumph, for it was the triumph of Justice over Oppression, of Humility over Pride!

There are, in my last letter, certain inquiries, to some of which Mr. Brown had not the documents on hand to afford him the information necessary to give me an answer. Will you therefore be so good as to give me a list of your members who have taken the first and second degrees, and in addition the *entire*

2. Nothing further is known of this society of Sigma Alpha Omicron. Like a large number of Greek letter societies which originated in the colleges of the central western states and of the South it established possibly three or four chapters and then disappeared.

3. Nothing was ever done with reference to the resuscitation of the chapter at Transylvania and it was allowed to become inactive. This chapter was called Epsilon and from the fact that the only other Beta chapter ever established in Kentucky, that at Centre College, Danville, Kentucky, also became designated by the letter Epsilon, it was for a long time traditional in the fraternity that the members of the Transylvania chapter had founded the chapter at Centre, but such was not the case. The latter chapter was established by two members who were obliged to leave Miami as hereinafter related.

names and residences of your new members, viz: Herron, Gilmore and Galloway.

FROM CHAS. S. McRAE, HARVARD, TO JAMES BROWN, MIAMI.

HARVARD CHAPTER, BETA THETA PI,
CAMBRIDGE, MASS., July 20, 1844.

It has been eight or nine months, I believe, since we had any communication from your chapter; but, even for that, we are indebted to you. I have delayed writing until I could speak definitely as to our determination in regard to the chapter here. In the beginning, our prospects were flattering. We organized with half a dozen good and true men; but it was near the close of the term, at which time most of them bade us good-bye. At the beginning of the present term, we found ourselves reduced to the small number of three, one of whom remained but a short time. We looked about us then to see what could be done towards the increase of numbers, and the more permanent establishment of the chapter within the walls of the college. We felt that its existence, as then only connected with the law school, was precarious, and could not with any certainty be sustained; the students in that department being in most instances such transient sojourners, as to render it a matter of great difficulty to find out sufficient of their true character and habits to feel sure of their true eligibility for membership; and, if satisfied as to that point, the most of them being A. Bs., in nine cases out of ten they belonged to an association of similar nature and objects in the colleges from which they come. These obstacles rendered it impossible to keep the chapter in existence in the law school alone. We then thought of transferring it to the college proper.⁴ For this purpose, I had a conversation with some of the under-graduates, and was informed that the faculty looked upon the establishment of all secret associations with suspicion, and would not countenance them within the precincts of the college; that unsuccessful attempts had been made before; that the Alpha Delta Phi was an instance which, though yet, I believe, in existence,

4. It was a mistake to have established the Harvard chapter in connection with the law school. Even at that early date, the system of clubs and societies at Harvard had assumed a fixed character and created an atmosphere inimical to the existence of a fraternity like Beta Theta Pi based on principles of democratic unselfishness.

holding its meetings in *town*, is barely able to drag its drooping form along.⁵ Under these, as the more prominent, considerations, Mr. J. P. Marvin and myself, the only remaining members, have concluded that it is not practicable at this time to perpetuate the chapter here.

For the kind welcome you gave us, in the name of your chapter, when we entered the association, permit us to return our warmest feelings of regard. Mr. Marvin will be resident here for several months to come. I shall leave soon, and will probably be in Cincinnati in November, when I should like to pay you a visit, and breathe again the atmosphere of the "Alma Mater" of my early college days.

FROM ALBERT M. BROWN, PRINCETON, TO JOHN W. HERRON,
MIAMI.

PRINCETON, N. J., October 28, 1844.

Owing to a misapprehension on my part this communication has been delayed to this unreasonable time. I hope however you will believe it has been unintentional and not willful neglect. I came into the chapter just before our last election for officers, and as our number was then very small I was chosen Recorder. And as I was so new a member I could, of course, know but little of the affairs of our association. On these two accounts I hope you will look as lightly as possible upon my neglect. Your last letter to us was written by Mr. Galloway; but as he was then a Senior, I suppose he has since graduated. I have therefore directed this letter to you to prevent miscarriage.

At our election of officers, Thomas Murphy was chosen President and Albert M. Brown, Recorder. Since that time we have admitted quite a number of Greeks, and I may safely say that we could not be in a more prosperous condition at present. I here give you a list of our members:

Wm. M. Scott, A.B., of the Jefferson Chapter; A. A. Little, A.B. (absent) Fredericksburg, Va.; Charles W. Shields, New Al-

5. The writer of this letter was misinformed concerning the condition of Alpha Delta Phi at that time at Harvard. It had at least eighteen members and was a flourishing society of a literary type. Probably with him the wish was father to the thought and helped to modify his regret at announcing the failure to maintain the Beta Theta Pi chapter.

bany, Ind.*; Frederick T. Brown, Senior, Logansport, Ind.; Thomas Murphy, Senior (President), New Hartford, N. Y.; Alex. J. Graham, Senior, Newark, N. J.; D. D. Sanderson, Senior, Marion, Ala.; Albert M. Brown, Senior (Recorder), Baltimore, Md.; Byron Smith, Senior, Orange, N. J.; Nathaniel C. Burt, Junior, Fairton, N. J.; Wm. H. Babbitt, Junior, N. J.; John A. Annin, Junior, N. J.; Henry Taylor, Junior, Va.

I think that with such members we should get along remarkably well. Our meetings are on the first Tuesday of every month. Our anniversary is on the first Tuesday of November, and will consequently be celebrated next week. On that occasion Mr. F. T. Brown will deliver the usual oration.

I have but little time at present to write much, I hope however at another time to do better. Please do not follow my example, but write immediately and I assure you a speedy answer. Excuse sir, the liberty I take in addressing this to you for circumstances require it.

FROM MILTON S. LATHAM, JEFFERSON, TO CHARLES W. GILMORE,
MIAMI.

ZETA CHAPTER OF THE BETA THETA PI.

JEFFERSON COLLEGE, November 21, 1844.

Your letter afforded me much pleasure, I assure you. If you can imagine a person whose whole soul is embarked in an enterprise, and during the conflicts perchance should meet with an old acquaintance, how happy must be the greeting. I hail you as a friend and member of our association, and sincerely hope you may find as congenial spirits in your chapter as you may desire. It affords me much pleasure to hear also of H. C. Noble (an old friend), having been elected a member of

6. Professor Charles Woodruff Shields whose name is in the Princeton list, was in his time one of the most eminent theologians in the United States. He was professor of the Harmony of Science and Revealed Religion at Princeton for more than forty years and was considered to be the most eminent theologian in the Presbyterian Church. On account of the trial for heresy by that Church of Dr. Briggs, Professor Shields in his old age left the Presbyterian Church and became an Episcopalian but retained his professorship at Princeton. Nathaniel C. Burt, also mentioned in this list, conducted an academy at Nice, in France, for many years. He was a prolific writer of travels throughout the countries mentioned in Bible history, and in the early seventies his books were found in every American household.

our association. I feel something of the spirit which has actuated me during my life, when as a boy I called it into existence. I look forward, Charley, to the time as not far distant when both your and my friends will be connected in this grand enterprise; when the silken cord of friendship shall bind us eternally and indissolubly. This is no idle whim of a moment—I live on it. I foster it in my mind, and when wandering alone over these surrounding hills, I think could such be the case it would be the happiest thought and reality of my life. I am instructed to say that our chapter most cordially concedes to yours the power of establishing a chapter at Bloomington and one at Springfield. With the full assurance that the "mother chapter" would not make the request unless the institution were in a flourishing condition. It accords, as you say, with our original intention. We extend South to a small distance East and North, and why not West? Let us run this moral ligament of Greek fellowship to the very Rocky Mountains.⁷ "The more the merrier" is an old aphorism, but nevertheless true, with reference to the completion of our original object. I received a letter from Princeton lately. They are in a flourishing condition. I received a letter from Western Reserve. They intend writing a history of our chapter, or rather of our association, embracing our chapter in company with the others. I would like to have a perusal of it. It would be, no doubt, interesting and fraught with much warmth in behalf of our association. Our chapter is in a flourishing condition. Last night we had a meeting and initiated Mr. G. D. Archibald, of Allegheny Co., and J. B. R. Robinson, of Westmoreland Co., Pa.—both of them the first in their class in an intellectual point of view, and far superior in a social point. It was a matter of difficulty to persuade them, at first, but what we were attempting (as they expressed it) was "to draw them." When they were informed, however, of our object, by the constitution, a change came over the spirit of their dreams." They had been elevated to the proud rank of a Greek and cast off the old title of barbarian. The change brought them to a pure atmosphere, and they embraced our cause heart and hand. We have been as successful as yourself in the large societies. Mr. J. P.

7. Milton S. Latham seemed to have been the original expansionist in the fraternity, from this statement of his desire that the fraternity should extend its bounds everywhere.

is elected the contest debator from the Philo Literary Society, and myself from the Franklin Society. Another one of our members will be chosen orator from the Philo Literary Society, and one essayist from the Franklin. We anticipate no small amusement in our brotherly and literary struggle for honors and distinction at our spring contest. "When Greek meets Greek, then comes the tug of war!" Our efforts are noble, though, and done in all good feeling. No suspicion is entertained with respect to our chapter's existence. We expect some valuable members among the fifty new ones. Our present number consists of:

Seniors: J. P. Sterrett, President, Juniata Co.; J. T. Owen, Baltimore; M. S. Latham, Recorder, (Athens chapter), Columbus.

Juniors: J. B. P. Robinson, Westmoreland Co.; G. D. Archibald, Allegheny Co.

Five of us are combating against near two hundred students. But the popular tide is with us. I will forward you a catalogue of our institution soon. Should you connect yourself with our college, you will be greeted by the chapter as a brother; by me as an old acquaintance and personal friend. Any information you may desire, I will give with pleasure. Present our chapter compliments to yours, and believe me yours in the bonds of Greek fellowship.

Remind your chapter of the fact that next fall is the regular time for the triennial convention. The choice devolves upon the Hudson chapter. Let us have a grand rally.

FROM JOHN NEWBERRY, WESTERN RESERVE, TO ALPHA CHAPTER.

GAMMA CHAPTER, BETA THETA PI,

WESTERN RESERVE COLLEGE, NOV. 27, 1844.

Your encouraging communication of—has been received and your proposition for the establishment of new chapters at Bloomington and Springfield, O., has received the assent of this chapter, knowing nothing of the propriety of the project, but having entire confidence in your judgment and prudence.

Bro. Woods, formerly of this chapter, now at New Haven, Conn., wishes authority to establish a chapter in Yale College;

he says, some fifteen of the finest fellows of the Sophomore class will join us.⁸ By submitting this matter to your chapter *immediately*, and sending to us your answer, you can essentially advance this cause. "Truth crushed to the earth will rise again." The Gamma chapter having received a severe blow in August, from the departure of four "Greeks" and from the success of the Alphas, is again "head up," equal to our rivals in numbers and talent, the war cry "Onward! still onward!" As Wordsworth says, "We are seven!" Write immediately.

GEORGE HOADLY AT HARVARD, TO THE CHAPTER AT MIAMI.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS., December 4th, 1844.

At a meeting of the Harvard chapter of the Beta Theta Pi, held Nov. 29th, the following resolutions were unanimously passed:

RESOLVED, That the name of the Eta or "Harvard" chapter, be changed to "Yale."

RESOLVED, That Mr. Wm. H. Upson, of the Yale Law School, a Beta of the Hudson chapter, Mr. Wm. B. Woods, of the same chapter, and Mr. John Coon, of the Athens chapter, members of Yale college, be admitted to the chapter, and be constituted a quorum with power to admit members, and do other business.

RESOLVED, That the Recorder be instructed to write to the other chapters requesting their assent to the proposed change.

In conformity with the instructions of the chapter I address you to-day. Our object, as you will readily perceive, is to change the location of this chapter to Yale College. This, we conceive, may be done constitutionally without consulting the other chapters; but we feel that on this point a reasonable doubt may be entertained, and we think it at least a debt of courtesy to consult

8. It was long a tradition in the fraternity that this group of men referred to by William B. Woods was the same set of students who founded the fraternity of Delta Kappa Epsilon. Such may have been the case. Delta Kappa Epsilon was founded in the Spring of 1844 while this communication was written in the fall, but it may have referred to events which occurred in the spring. The real reason why Beta Theta Pi did not enter Yale at this time is, that John Coon, a member of the chapter at Athens, Ohio, was persuaded to join Psi Upsilon, and that desertion took the heart out of the group. That some of the men may afterwards have gone into D. K. E. seems quite likely.

our brethren before making so important a change. If this be not done with the close of this year, the Eta chapter *must die*. We can go on no farther. The chapter was established under flattering auspices, but not three months elapsed after its organization before the sky was black and lowering. There are in the Harvard Law School 165 students, yet, strange to say, out of this number there is not *one* whom we could admit without violating the express provisions of our consciences and our constitution. Our consciences provide that Betas should be "choice spirits," "hail fellows well met," and by this one-half the school is excluded. Our constitution provides that Betas should belong to no similar association, and this excludes the other half. Every young man of talent is a member of some similar society in his *Alma Mater*, and from them we are excluded by our constitution from making selections. Besides, we have an old and powerful rival, the "Viginti Fratres." The college department of Harvard University is of so miserable a character that we would be ashamed to make selections from it. Here are collected 250 boys, all from Massachusetts, who possess neither the talent nor the spirit to make good Betas. Besides, many secret societies already exist in the college—too many to give us any reasonable hope of establishing a chapter there, even if the material existed. From this imperfect sketch you will see what obstacles prevent our success here. What, then, shall we do?

There are in Yale College three Betas, one in the Law school, one in the Sophomore and one in the Senior class. There are two societies there that would prove rivals to the Beta Theta Pi, viz., the *Alpha Delta Phi* and *Psi Upsilon*. By making *now* a judicious selection from the Sophomore class, the Beta Theta Pi can be placed on the same platform with them. There are Western and Southern men in Yale sufficient to do this. The proposal has been made, and a goodly number of the most talented and influential of the Sophomore class are ready to join the Beta brotherhood. The constitution of *Alpha Delta Phi* is in the hands of a gentleman who will probably publish it, and if this is done there will remain but one society to oppose us, for the *Alpha Delta Phi* will certainly, after such a disclosure, perish.⁹ Its chapters

9. It was a curious notion long prevalent that if the constitution of one of the Greek letter college societies became disclosed, that would automatically cause the death of such fraternity, and yet as will be seen in

in Brown University, N. Y. City University, Columbia College, Union College and Princeton College are already dead.¹⁰ The disclosure of the motto "*Aoratos Desmos Philotatos*," "A secret bond the sweetest," and some circumstances connected with the society, have done this glorious work. We have received assurances from Yale that the Chapter will be *certain* to succeed *there*. On these assurances we rely with implicit confidence. The question then stands thus: Shall we suffer the Eta chapter to die, or shall we continue it in Yale, where so glorious an opportunity opens. I repeat that it is *utterly, absolutely impossible* to go on with it *here*. On these reasons, and for these considerations, we request your assent to the proposed change. Will you convene your chapter *immediately* and take the vote on this proposal, and when you write to us in return, also inform us what members you have admitted since January last. It is important to us that you should do this *as soon as possible*. The following list comprises the members of the Eta chapter present and absent:

A. W. Hamilton, A. B., Mt. Sterling, Ky., of the Miami chapter, absent.

Peleg E. Aldrich, LL. B., Tappahannock, Va., absent.

Wm. Baker, A. B., LL., B., Norwalk, Ohio, absent.

Wm. W. Peck, A. B., Burlington, Vt., absent.

Charles S. McRae, LL. B., Mobile, Ala., leaves for home next week.

John G. Marvin, LL., B., Towanda, Pa., present.

Geo. Hoadly, Jr., A. B., Cleveland, Ohio, of the Hudson chapter, present.

There will be, you perceive, after next week, but *two* Betas here. We both leave the school in July next, and then *mortua est*, unless the proposed change is made. *Answer this, if possible, immediately.*

this series of letters, the Betas very soon acquired the constitutions of all their rivals and the latter just as certainly secured the constitution of Beta Theta Pi without any injury to any of the organizations involved.

10. The writer was mistaken as to the condition of the chapter of Alpha Delta Phi at that time. The chapters at Brown, N. Y. U. and Columbia were then inactive—but the Union chapter was not organized until 1859 nor the Princeton chapter until 1865.

WILLIAM H. BABBITT, PRINCETON, TO CHARLES W. GILMORE,
MIAMI.

THETA CHAPTER OF BETA THETA PI,

PRINCETON, May 17, 1845.

Your communication of May 5 is before me, and it affords me pleasure to be able thus early to reply to it. You speak of a letter of yours remaining unanswered by us, which requested our consent to the establishment of two new chapters, one at Bloomington and the other at Greencastle. By referring back to our minutes of December last, I find the following:

"Resolved, That we give our consent to the establishment of a new chapter at Bloomington, Indiana, and at Springfield, Ohio." I find also a letter from Oxford, dated Nov. 10, making a request corresponding to the above resolution, but nothing said concerning Greencastle. The individual who was recorder at that time left us this week with the commencement of senior vacation, and I have not been able to discover anything more definite about the matter, nor whether he did answer your letter by communicating the above resolution or not. I have however, just written as you advised to Greencastle directing to Jas. Harlan. All our older members of the seminary and college having left us (some not to return again) I have no one of whom I can make inquiry so as to get hold of the straight of the matter, and I therefore communicate as above.

Not knowing how long it may be since you have received a letter from us, I enclose to you a complete list of our members up to present date. They are as follows:

Frederick T. Brown, Indiana.

Archibald A. Little, Virginia.

Thomas Murphy, New York.

A. J. Graham, New Jersey.

D. D. Sanderson, Alabama.

Albert M. Brown, Maryland.

†Nathaniel C. Burt, New Jersey.

*Charles W. Shields, Indiana.

†William H. Babbitt, New Jersey.

†John A. Annin, New Jersey.

M. Byron Smith, New Jersey.

†Henry Taylor, Virginia.

*R. M. Richardson, Kentucky.

Charles M. Davis, New Jersey.

Those marked † are present members of the junior class in college and those * are connected with the theological seminary; the rest have graduated from the college and left us. At our next regular meeting we shall probably choose some others from the college to take the place of those who have recently left us. In behalf of the chapter I represent I remain with feelings of regard and desire for your continued prosperity.

Charles W. Gilmore.

NEWTON BOOTH, INDIANA ASBURY, TO C. WARD GILMORE,
MIAMI.

GREEN CASTLE, IND., June 13, 1845.

We have delayed thus long to answer yours of the 8th of May, that we might report a permanent organization. Being enabled to do so now, we write with pleasure. Our present members are:

Pres't—JAMES HARLAN, Sen., Parke Co., Ind.¹¹

WILLIAM NESBITT, " Cynthiana, Ind.

JNO. R. GOODWIN, " Brookville, Ind.

JNO. W. CHILDS, " N. Albany, Ind.

JAS. M. REYNOLDS, Jun. LaFayette, Ind.

Rec'r—NEWTON BOOTH, "Terre Haute, Ind.¹²

And though ours—the most Western chapter—is now young, we trust we shall never be wanting in those offices that should characterize members of our beloved Fraternity. We have received a communication from the Theta chapter containing a cordial welcome. The existence of this branch is here known to none save its members. We date our regular formation April 23, 1845. I am instructed to inquire if each chapter is expected

11. James Harlan mentioned in this list deserves special mention. He was president of Iowa Wesleyan University, United States Senator for one period of ten years and another of six, was Secretary of the Interior in the days of Reconstruction, and was chief justice of the Court which adjudicated the Alabama Claims.

12. Newton Booth, who wrote the letter for the Asbury Chapter, removed to California very soon after leaving College, and became in succession a member of the State Senate, Governor of California and United States Senator from California.

publicly to celebrate her anniversary. Our delegates will be present at your approaching "Triennial Convention." We desire to know something of the order of exercises planned for the occasion. We are truly rejoiced to hear of your continued prosperity—believing, with you, that the strength of each chapter should consist, not of number, but the *devotion* of the *few*. Accept our thanks for your "well wishes" and care. We trust that age may only serve to strengthen the bonds of——— that bind us together with———.

JOHN NEWBERRY, WESTERN RESERVE, TO JOHN G. MILLER,¹³
MIAMI.

HUDSON, O., Oct. 5, 1845.

You will perceive that I have transported my mortality to W. R. College again.

Yes, after leaving Columbus, with much regret, where your politeness had rendered my stay so pleasant, and after sundry bumpings of my cranium and freezings of my toes in the stage, I arrived again at the home in tolerable health and spirits, reported the proceedings of the Cincinnati Convention, and was instructed to write to the different chapters on one or two items of business of common interest.

First. To propose the holding of a special convention at Hudson, Columbus or elsewhere, within the present year or at its close; where, with at least one delegate from each chapter, we can take measures for the publication of a catalogue, etc., etc. (The Alphas, as you are probably aware, have just published a very neat one, and we must do likewise.)

Second. We ask the consent of your chapter for the establishment of a chapter at the University of Michigan. The prospects are very fair for a splendid chapter, and I think you will hardly refuse to give the enterprise your approbation.

Our chapter is in a very flourishing condition indeed. I think our friends, the Alphas, are rather under the weather, and if the efforts of your humble servant can avail anything, they will stay there for a time, if not longer.

^{13.} John G. Miller, to whom this letter was written, was subsequently expelled from the fraternity. See the letters of June 4th and July 26th, 1846.

Our chapter consists of the following members, now present:

- C. R. PIERCE, *A. B.*, Hudson, O.
 H. E. PAINE, " Chardon, O.
 L. BISSELL, " Milan, O. Tutor.
 E. BUSHNELL, Senior, Newark, O.¹⁴
 E. W. REYNOLDS, " Shoreham, Vt. (Rec. Elect.)
 T. D. NUTTING, " Romeo, Mich.¹⁵
 JNO. S. NEWBERRY, " Cuyahoga Falls, O.¹⁶
 A. C. KEYES, Junior, Coneaut, O.
 C. W. PALMER, Soph, Ohio City, O.
 T. PELTON, " Gt. Barrington, Mass.
 THOMAS DOGGETT, " Ohio City, Ohio.
 CHAS. A. NORTON, " Charlestown, O.

All good men and true, and more in prospect.

Please give our Cincinnati brethren a punch, as you have an opportunity, about their devotion to our cause, Mitchell excepted. I wish my arm was long enough to reach across the state, I would give him one cordial shake of the hand, you had better believe, (a light in darkness).

Jones is dead, I see by the Cincinnati papers, much to my surprise; a fine fellow and valuable member; his loss must be much regretted by all who knew him.

We hold our anniversary in about three weeks. We are to have a supper, an oration, a poem, a history of the society, and a fine time in general. I wish you could be with us at that time.

Will you lay the more important matter of my communica-

14. Ebenezer Bushnell was expelled from the fraternity at his own request in 1882, he having agreed that if one of his near relatives would reform from some objectionable personal habits, he would become an honorary member of the chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon to which such relative belonged, and he carried out his part of the bargain.

15. Timothy Dwight Nutting was a well-known professor of music. He founded the Conservatory of Music at Jacksonville, Illinois, and administered its affairs for many years. Being in the South at the outbreak of the Civil War, he was conscripted and compelled to act as a leader of the regimental band of Colonel Barksdale of Mississippi and later of the brigade band of General Longstreet in the Confederate Army.

16. John S. Newberry was one of the most eminent geologists in the United States. He was professor of geology in the School of Mines of Columbia College from 1866 until his death which occurred in 1892. He was State Geologist of Ohio for many years and was president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science from 1869 to 1892. During the Civil War he was secretary of the United States Sanitary Commission, the organization which preceded the Red Cross.

tion before your chapter immediately, and send us your answer as soon as possible? And while you are presenting this business to your chapter, please tender to the members individually and collectively, our kindest regards and warmest sympathies, and receive for yourself *my particular respects*.

I have sent to New York for a complete copy of the Alpha's constitution, which you shall have as soon as received.

FROM G. R. McMILLAN, MIAMI, TO STANLEY MATTHEWS,
CINCINNATI

MIAMI UNIVERSITY, OXFORD, Ohio, Oct. 6, '45.

I have been requested to write a letter of introduction to one of the Cincinnati Chapter for T. B. Graham and others of the Bloomington Chapter who will be in the city shortly for the purpose of obtaining Pins.¹⁷

I have informed them of *your* location and they will call on you. You can give them the necessary information I suppose with regard to the place of procuring them.

We have a fine prospect for some good members this session.

A little diligence and the Alphas are defunct here.

We have now in our possession the constitution and laws of Alpha Delta Phi society. They were stolen by a Sigma at Hudson.

NATHANIEL WEST, MICHIGAN, TO JOHN G. MILLER, MIAMI.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, Jan. 28, 1846.

LAMBDA CHAPTER OF B. Θ. II.

In accordance with the clause of the *Beta* constitution which makes it the "duty of each chapter, semi-annually, to make out a list of its members, a statement of its condition and prospects and of such other matters as may seem advisable, and to transmit a copy of the same to every chapter of the association," I herewith communicate to you, as the accredited recorder of the *Alpha* chapter, the necessary information.

The chapter was formed on the 13th of November, 1845, through the agency of B. F. Millard, formerly of Hudson. The

17. This is the first mention of the chapter at the Indiana University. It was founded August 27th, 1845, but none of the correspondence relating to it has been preserved prior to this letter of October 26th, 1845.

organization is now thoroughly completed, and the commencement of our course as *Betas*, has been made under the most favorable auspices. Our chapter is in a prosperous condition, and we are from time to time electing those whom we consider the worthy repositories of such a trust.

The following is a correct list of the members who have been initiated and admitted to all the privileges of our brotherhood:

P. W. H. RAWLES, *A. B.*, Kalamazoo, Mich.

GEO. L. BECKER, Ann Arbor, Mich.¹⁸

JAS. M. WALKER, Farmington, Mich.

N. WEST, Pontiac, Mich.

JOHN S. NEWBERRY, Romeo, Mich.

FRANKLIN L. PARKER, Plymouth, Mich.

CHARLES BECKWITH, Kalamazoo, Mich.

B. GRAY, Marshall, Mich.

There are several others who will be elected and initiated ere long, making the whole number nearly, or quite twelve.

At our last semi-annual election, the following constitutional officers were chosen by the chapter, viz: Geo. L. Becker, President, and N. West, Recorder.

We have some opposition in the shape of the following societies: The *A Δ Φ*, the *X Ψ*, and the *A A*, all of which have been recently established here, but *we* were first in the field and made our selections so that they will not have an equal chance for years to come.

We have no correspondence whatever with the following chapters:

Delta Chapter, Athens, Ohio.

Epsilon, Lexington, Ky.

Zeta, Canonsburg, Pa.

Eta, Harvard University.

Theta, Princeton, New Jersey.

Kappa, Bloomington, Ind.

18. George L. Becker was a prominent citizen of Minnesota for many years, and was interested in railroad matters both as president of the original St. Paul and Pacific Railway Company and afterwards as one of the State Board of Railroad Commissioners. He was mayor of St. Paul, a member of the Minnesota Constitutional Convention, and was elected to Congress in 1857, but was refused a seat because Minnesota had not then been admitted to the Union. Later he was member of the Minnesota Senate.

If you have any communication with the above chapters, will you please give me the name of the Recorders, etc.?

The Lambda chapter is the youngest sister of the association, but its members are all actuated by energetic activity, and we trust that we shall ever prove ourselves worthy of our new connection. Hoping that the correspondence we may now commence will be beneficial to the individual members of our respective chapters.

HIRAM STRONG, MIAMI, TO NATHANIEL WEST, MICHIGAN.

OXFORD, O., April 22, 1846.

Your communication was received some time since. Our answer has been long unavoidably delayed. It is truly encouraging to see our society continually increasing in strength and extending its branches throughout every part of the country thereby rendering certain the accomplishment of the high and noble ends for which it was established.

At a late meeting of the chapter it was resolved that we ask permission of our brethren to establish a branch of our association at Wabash College, Crawfordsville, a highly flourishing institution in Indiana.

Also it was resolved that it would be highly expedient to issue a catalogue of our association containing the names of all the members from the foundation of the society until the present time, with their present residences and (if possible) professions. You will at once see the importance of this measure and we hope its utility. It will not interfere with our secret character in as much as copies be sent to none but members. The probable cost of a sufficient number of catalogues got up in a neat style to send one to each Beta and some score or two to each chapter will be about \$4.00 per chapter. We hope that this business will meet with prompt attention. We wish to publish it during the month of July or if possible sooner. We send you the names as far as we know them, of persons at the different chapters to whom you can address letters.

At Bloomington, Indiana, Thos. B. Graham; at Hudson, Ohio, C. W. Palmer or A. C. Keys; at Greencastle, Indiana, Jas. M. Reynolds or Newton Booth; at Princeton, Wm. H. Babbitt or Henry Taylor or N. C. Burt.

GEORGE W. CLARK, WASHINGTON, TO JOHN G. MILLER, MIAMI.

ZETA, OF BETA THETA PI,
JEFFERSON COLLEGE, May 12, 1846.

As Recorder of Zeta chapter, it becomes my duty to address you at present in regard to the condition of our association, as to the branch of it here, and in general, what may come up as a fit subject for our semi-annual communication.

First then: The state of our chapter is as good as we could expect—now numbering twelve—and the prospects flattering; inasmuch the number of students is much enlarged, and still more coming. These are the names of our members present, as follows:

James L. Rogers, Connellsville, Pa., Senior.
James P. Sterrett, Mifflington, Pa., Tutor.
Jas. B. P. Robinson, Westmoreland Co., Pa.; Sr.
Geo. D. Archibald, Allegheny Co., Pa., Junior.
John Weaver, Canonsburg, Pa., M. D.
Jonathan Letterman, Canonsburg, Pa., M. D.
Geo. W. Zahniser, Mercer, Pa., Senior.
James H. Orbison, Huntington, Pa., Senior.
Henry B. Pettibone, Wilkinson Co., Miss., Sr.
Samuel T. Wilson, Hollidaysburg, Pa., Soph.
Henry W. Hoffman, Cumberland, Md., Soph.
Geo. W. Clark (Recorder), Bedford, Pa., Jr.

We all send our greeting to the brotherhood, and, although we have never met face to face, we feel that there is a tie that binds us as the bonds of tried friendship, or the inseparable relation felt in the magic of that word "brother"—*viz.*: the assurance that if we should ever meet, no matter where, we should at once feel, in the first recognition, all the force of "there is magic in a sound."

One of our old members wishes to form a chapter at Franklin, Louisiana. In your reply, please give us your sentiments in regard to it, as it cannot be done without the consent of all, as you are aware.

Please to give us your report soon. We would be pleased to receive a catalogue of your college, and it will be reciprocated.

In regard to your last letter, we have interchanged letters with the Bloomington chapter, but not Greencastle that I know of.

As to Dickinson College, there has not been a chapter established there as yet. We appointed one of our members to do it, but he has not done it, unless this vacation. It is to be regretted that the correspondence is so poorly kept up by some branches of our institution. With all our chapters, it seems to be very desirable that this should be strictly attended to. It would not only benefit our association in general, but would be pleasant, increase our knowledge of each other, and thereby, I trust, promote the great objects of the brotherhood. It is to be presumed that every Greek is what he should be; and, such being the case, it will follow that the more we know of each other the more we may love and confide in each other.

JOHN S. NEWBERRY, MICHIGAN, TO HIRAM STRONG, MIAMI.

MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY,

ANN ARBOR, May 26, 1846.

As your last letter was answered by our President during vacation, and as no action had been taken upon the resolutions which you had passed and forwarded to us, it devolves upon me at this time to communicate to you the result of our deliberations. And, in a few words, that can be done, too, for we concurred in both resolutions, *i. e.*, with regard to establishing a chapter at Crawfordsville, Indiana, and also with regard to the catalogue. Thus much for that.

It is also made incumbent upon each chapter at the semi-annual election to make out a list of its members and officers, and forward a copy to each of the other chapters. (I wish this could be done, too, a little more generally.) The following is a list of all the members of this, the Lambda chapter:

P. W. H. Rawles, A. B., Kalamazoo, Mich.

Geo. L. Becker, Senior, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Jas. M. Walker, Senior, Farmington, Mich.

Nathaniel West, Senior, Pontiac, Mich.

F. Leonidas Parker (Pres.), Jr., Plymouth, Mich.

J. Stoughton Newberry (Rec.), Jr., Romeo, Mich.

Horatio W. Shaw (V.-Pres.), Soph., Dover, Mich.¹⁹

19. Horatio W. Shaw was expelled but was afterwards reinstated by a vote of one of the fraternity conventions. His expulsion was because of the views of the particular religious denomination to which he belonged concerning secret societies. (See note 1, Chap. V.)

Sidney D. Miller (Marshal), Soph., Monroe, Mich.

Wyllys C. Ransom, Soph., Kalamazoo, Mich.²⁰

Charles Beckwith, Fresh., Kalamazoo, Mich.

Barzillai Gray, Marshall, Mich.

Our society is in a flourishing condition, anyhow; but, considering the length of time, or, rather, the shortness of the time we have been organized, it is doing magnificently. All our members are the best of fellows, and no one can ask any better testimony of the fact than that they are called so by every member of college. We may possibly elect one or two others this term. And though we have two other chapters to contend against (the Chi Psi and another A A which petitioned Σ Φ the parent chapter of which is located here), we can get almost any and every one we may choose.

The name of our society is not known in public here at all yet, but members are willing, aye glad, to join from only knowing who are our members. Although our chapter is the youngest of the family, "the baby boy," still we would wish you to understand that we have attained a vigorous and rapid age (if I may so speak), and this arises from no precocious qualities, but from the rich and vivifying soil of the Wolverine State. I am proud of the association of Betas; proud of our noble stream, so gloriously refreshing all the bright gardens of literature, where one of its little fountains so sparkling gushed up. Write soon and send a list of all the recorders you know.

THOMAS B. GRAHAM, INDIANA, TO JOHN S. NEWBERRY,
MICHIGAN.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY, May 31, 1846.

I received your communication of the 16th inst., and will in answer write you in regard to our progress in this place. We do not flourish as well as we might, but it is owing to

20. Wyllys C. Ransom was very active in the affairs of the fraternity while in college. Until about 1870 he had little to do with the administration of the fraternity, but then began to take an interest in its affairs and was extremely active in everything concerning it until the time of his death. He founded the chapter at the University of Kansas; he was president of half dozen conventions; was visiting officer of the fraternity for a number of years; a member of the Board of Directors for many years; the author of the constitution of 1879 and the ritual of 1880; and a member of the commission which secured the union between the fraternity and Alpha Sigma Chi. Much of the present prosperity of the fraternity is due to his efforts.

our being too green in the business—it is difficult to bring young fellows who have been familiar with contentions of every kind in the other literary societies to unite in perfect harmony. The rivalry and ambition which always exists where honors are to be had tend to anything else than a perfect union in feelings. We meet once a month—to-morrow night is our time. One-half read essays on each evening—the remainder of the time is spent in conversation. The Oxford chapter wish to publish a catalogue—will cost four dollars per chapter. I think it a good idea. This is the Kappa chapter—has been in existence about one year. We have taken in no new members lately, our members are:

Barton W. Wilson, A. B., Bourbon, Ky.; W. E. Simpson, A. B., Virginia; R. Q. Roache, A. B., Rockville, Ia.²¹; S. T. Wylie, A. B., Bloomington; J. G. Clendenin, A. B., Paoli, Ia.

The following are the members in attendance:

Seniors: T. B. Graham, Recorder, Jasper, Ia.; H. Wheeler, President, Bristol, Ia.; R. R. Roberts, Newburg, Ia.; J. Clark, Louisville, Ky.; S. N. Martin, Livonia, Ia.; W. A. P. Martin,²² Livonia, Ia.

Juniors: T. Parvin,²³ Abington, Pa.; H. H. Trimble, Franklin, Pa.

Of these, Messrs. Clendenin and Simpson, both young men of talents, room-mates for years, died a few months after they left college. They died at the same place (Paoli), and only one week intervening. Their loss was not only felt by us, but by the whole

21. The abbreviation "Ia." in letters written prior to 1860 means Indiana and not Iowa, just as at that time the abbreviation "W.T." means Wisconsin Territory and not Wyoming.

22. W. A. P. Martin had a remarkable career. After graduating at the Theological Seminary at New Albany, Indiana, he went to China and remained there the best part of the time until his death in 1917. He performed many important diplomatic services between the United States and the Chinese government, wrote very many works on International Law and Philosophy, both in Chinese and English, was for a long while professor of International Law at the Imperial University, and for over twenty years was president of the Imperial Tungwen College at Peking.

23. Theophilus Parvin became a physician and for the better part of his life resided in Philadelphia. He was a specialist in gynaecology, was founder and president of the Association of American Medical Journalists, president of the American Medical Association, of the American Academy of Medicine, and of the American Gynaecological Society. He was editor of a number of journals and the author of many books and pamphlets. He was an acknowledged leader in the medical profession.

community—a gloom was spread over us that will not soon pass away. They were my most intimate friends for four years.

FROM HIRAM STRONG, MIAMI, TO NATHANIEL WEST OR GEO.
L. BECKER, MICHIGAN.

OXFORD, OHIO, June 4, 1846.

Some time since I addressed a letter to your chapter to which as yet, we have received no answer. And fearing lest our letter or your answer may have been miscarried I have concluded to address you again. It is necessary that the business of which we last spoke should be settled soon. In that you were informed of our intention of issuing a catalogue of our association provided none of the chapters should make any objections to the measure. We have received a letter from Canonsburg, Pa., on the subject, and they proposed that it be issued without the name of the society and contain only the names of the members, with a Greek letter denoting the chapter. Our chapter has not yet consulted on this plan, but I think it will be adopted. We also asked permission to establish a chapter at Crawfordsville, Ind. I have since been instructed to ask permission to establish chapters at Danville, Ky., Marietta, Ohio, and Columbia, S. C.

We are sorry that we are obliged to inform you that the name of J. G. Miller must be stricken from our list. This individual was suspended from all connection with the society last winter. Previous to that time, it was made the duty of every member to conceal the existence of the chapter. Mr. Miller, however, used every indirect measure within his power to make known the existence of the society and the names of the members. At the same time his character and reputation were not such as to "uphold the dignity of Beta Theta Pi." Taking these matters into consideration, we passed a resolution suspending him until amendment (of his conduct) should restore him to our ranks. Since that time however, his conduct towards the members has been such as to render it impossible that he should ever again become connected with this association. We feel assured that we are safe from any injury he may attempt to inflict upon us, for he has neither our constitution nor any of our correspondence. This was an unusual step, but it was one which we

think was necessary for the honor and even the existence of the Beta Theta Pi.

We received a letter from Babbitt of Princeton informing us of the decease of that chapter. This points the B Θ Π, to a matter which they should have considered some time ago. It is impossible that our branches should flourish in the Eastern institutions where there is so much opposition from the older societies, until we get a firm hold in the West. Cambridge, Yale and Princeton have all taught us this. The West and South is yet the place for us. Let us get firmly planted there, then we can succeed with ease in the East. We have therefore determined to urge upon our sister chapters to be active in extending our branches throughout the West and South. The Miami chapter will do their part of the duty. In the meantime, we intend to make continued trials in the east, so that we may know when is the proper time to commence in that quarter. There will be one or two graduates going from our chapter to Princeton every fall for two or three years in succession. Also we are informed that one of our members at Bloomington is going to Yale next fall when we expect to make another attempt there.

Our letter from Canonsburg—Recorder, G. W. Clark— informs us that they are flourishing. They are about establishing a chapter at Carlisle, Pa. If you can inform me who is Recorder at Hudson I should like to know. I have addressed two letters and neither of them has been answered.

We received a letter from Green Castle lately—Recorder, James P. Luse. Our last letter contained a complete list of all the members of this chapter. If you have received it you may add to that list, the name of Isaiah Faries, Salem, Ind., Senior. If you did not receive the letter, let us know and I will send another list.

We are in a very flourishing condition and have made the chapter public. Our pins "take the shine" over the Alphas. Please inform us whether you are public or not.

Address Thos. B. Graham at Bloomington, Ind.

Of the Lexington, Ky., chapter we know nothing. I suppose it has failed. We have written to a member who lives near to know.

At Athens we have no chapter now in active operation. A

member of the chapter is principal of the Academy, who intends starting the chapter when the College rises again.

The Harvard chapter has long since failed.

C. W. PALMER, WESTERN RESERVE, TO HIRAM STRONG, MIAMI.

HUDSON, O., June 6, 1846.

Both letters from the *A.* chapter were received; the first one came during our spring vacation, which will account for our delay in answering. We are exceedingly gratified to hear of your prosperity, for we fear there is too general an apathy in our midst.

Your request was taken into consideration, and permission was given to establish a chapter at Crawfordsville, Ind., also one at Danville, Ky., provided the opening should be good. Action upon the request for permission to establish chapters at Marietta, O., and Columbia, S. C., was deferred until we learn something more of the prospects and chances of success. The chapter here feels a great anxiety in regard to the manner of establishing new chapters. We think that due discrimination and caution is not at all times exercised. It will be recollected that the chapter here was formed rather hastily, and in consequence of that haste we suffer even now.

We have too many dead chapters now, and we think that a "live dog is better than a dead lion." We would earnestly request that you would be exceedingly cautious in the members elected upon the formation of new chapters, as the stand they take, when formed, in a great measure determines their future character and success. For these reasons we have deferred action on the requests, with respect to Marietta and Columbia, S. C., until we are confident that the chapters that may be formed there will take and maintain a stand that will honor the institution. We trust you will write the prospects in those places, when we can act more understandingly.

Your proposal to issue a catalogue of the association was considered. It will be remembered that this chapter, in the Triennial Convention, endeavored to carry this measure through, and that when it failed there, it communicated with the chapters on the expediency of holding a special convention to consider this and other measures that might conduce to the welfare of the association. The chapter is willing to maintain the stand it has taken,

but we think that in our present condition it is not expedient to issue a catalogue on the plan proposed. We think it a matter which needs concerted action, and that it can only be carried through satisfactorily by a convention. Besides, we are at present without union. The Recorder of this chapter was not in the possession of the names of other Recorders until within a few weeks. We need a vigorous correspondence to make us feel our oneness more, and to enable us to act concertedly.

In view of all these considerations, the chapter here concluded to discourage the issuing of a catalogue on the plan proposed, at least for the present. We regretted much that you considered the honor of the Beta Theta Pi demanded that one who was connected with us should be cut off. Such a measure is an extreme one, and in our opinion should be used only in extreme cases. We pass no judgment upon this case, but it must be seen that one cast off member can injure us more than a dozen violent partisans of other societies.

We received a letter from the Lambda chapter a few days since, and we rejoiced to learn that they are prospering finely. We congratulate ourselves on standing in the relation of god-father to so fine a chapter. If we take special pains and establish branches only in approved institutions, and elect as members only the truly meritorious, we shall not be pained with hearing of the deaths of chapter after chapter. Our own prospects are excellent.

Our list is as follows :

SAMUEL BISSELL, *A. B.*, Theologue and Tutor.

EBENEZER BUSHNELL, Senior.

JOHN NEWBERRY, “

EDWIN W. REYNOLDS, “ Pres.

TIM. DWIGHT NUTTING, “

C. R. PIERCE, *A. B.*

C. W. PALMER, Soph., Rec.

T. PELTON, “

THOS. DOGGETT, “

CHAS. A. NORTON, “

J. B. MERRIAM, “ 24

24. J. B. Merriam was the author of Bryant and Stratton's "Commercial Arithmetic" which was the standard arithmetic in the Public Schools of the United States for twenty-five years after the Civil War.

We shall probably, during this term, have an accession of two or three to our number. Our Alpha *brethren* fare rather hardly,—poor picking, and consequently they grow bare.

ROBT. S. FULLERTON, OHIO, TO CHAS. GILLMORE, MIAMI.

FRANKFORT, O., June 8, 1846.

From a letter received some months (I believe) since, I learned that your *chapter* was desirous of publishing a list of the members of the *brotherhood*. At the time I was unable to give you the information you wished, but shortly thereafter I wrote to Safford, at Athens, for a list of our members. In order to expedite matters, I requested him to direct to you. I supposed all right until last mail, when I received a letter from him informing me that he had mislaid my letter and forgotten *the name*, and consequently he sent the list to me to be forwarded. This much by way of apology, for a *seeming* neglect. I will send you the names of our members, their residences, and pursuits as near as can be made out. I hope that our unfortunate delay will not occasion your chapter any unnecessary trouble.

Safford wishes me to say that he will feel greatly obliged if some of you Betas would send him a "copy"—and so say I, unless it be asking too much.

The Delta chapter, Athens, O., of the Beta Theta Pi, was established by Mr. Henry Beard, of Zanesville, Ohio, November 19, 1841.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

- *CHAS. C. GILBERT, of Zanesville, O., now of West Point, N. Y.
- *RIPLEY C. HOFFMAN, of Jackson, O., now Practitioner of Law.
- *JOHN C. CULBERTSON, of Zanesville, O., now Student of Law.
- JEFFERSON P. SAFFORD, of Putnam, O., now of Indianapolis, Ind.
- R. H. GILMORE, of Jacksontown, O., near Newark.
- J. A. BROWNE, of Athens, O., now Physician, Logan, O.
- ALEX. M. CREEL, Parkersburg, Va., practicing Law.
- W. W. BIERCE, of Circleville, O., practicing Law.
- JOHN COON, of Cleveland, O.
- JAS. JOHNSON, of Athens, O., Practicing Law.

J. M. BUSH, of Tremont, Ill., practicing Law.
 A. MORRISON, of Granville, O., practicing Law.
 GEO. B. WRIGHT, of Granville, O., practicing Law.
 L. D. McCABE, of Marietta, O., Professor of Mathematics,
 Delaware, O.
 M. S. LATHAM, of Columbus, O., Student of Law.
 W. J. HOGE, of Gallatin, Tenn., Student of Theology.
 JAS. M. SAFFORD, of Putnam, O., now of Ohio University.
 WILLIAM SHOTWELL, JR., of Cadiz, O., Practitioner of Law.
 ROBERT S. FULLERTON, of Bloomingburg, O.
 A. L. S. BATEMAN, of Mt. Vernon, O., Student of Law.
 ROBERT WOODROW, of Chillicothe, O., now of Memphis, Tenn.
 A. L. OLIVER, of Warren Co., O., Practitioner of Law.

* Founders.

As this is not an *official* document, a few remarks in reference to some of the above.

Gilbert is now first Cadet officer upon the Point; will graduate in a few days. J. P. Safford is teaching an academy in Indianapolis, and intends, I believe, studying theology, though I am not certain. Gilmore has studied law; whether he is admitted, given it up, or is still studying, I am not informed. Latham, I believe, is studying law—you probably know, or can learn from some of the *Oxford boys* from Columbus. Coon, I think, is at Yale.

I believe the above list is as complete as I can make it. I trust it may prove satisfactory. With my warmest wishes for the welfare of yourself, together with the other members of the Oxford chapter, and all *true* Betas *everywhere*, I subscribe myself,

GARVIN R. McMILLAN, MIAMI, TO GEO. L. BECKER, MICHIGAN.

OXFORD, O., July 1, 1846.

I received your letter a few days ago and now hasten to give you, to the best of my knowledge, the desired information. The history of the foundation of the society can be given in a few words. But to give a complete history of this chapter and all its branches from its first organization until the present time is almost impossible. Much even with regard to its foundation we

have from tradition and the greater part in fact of what we know we have learned from hearing the old patriarchs telling of their contests and triumphs. This chapter was founded in 1839 by John Reily Knox and David Linton.²⁵ Knox is regarded as the patriarch as he took the most active hand in its organization. At that time the A Δ Φ's were very strong here and also very much disliked. There were at that time some warm-hearted—whole-souled Southerners here who with the two foregoing members, or founders, could be driven about by no set of men. And it is a little strange that the idea of a secret association in opposition to the A Δ Φ's, was conceived by three or four at almost the same time and two constitutions were being prepared at the same time one by Linton the other by Knox though each was unconscious of what the other was doing. Linton first spoke to Knox and told him he had such an object in view and asked his co-operation. Knox was rejoiced at the proposition as he then had a constitution nearly prepared and was about to speak to Linton on the subject. They united; completed the constitution already commenced by Knox calling to their aid during the meantime Marshall (whose first name I have forgotten), organizing themselves they met August 8th, 1839, and with them four others whose names you have and subscribed the constitution.

The first anniversary celebration was held August 11th, 1839, the anniversary address was delivered by Linton on the last word in our motto. The badge at first consisted of a breast pin with three gold stars in front, a crescent and the date of the chapter in Greek. On the back a heart penetrated by a spear and the name of the member wearing it. The constitution has undergone some important modifications of which I cannot speak without giving too much detail. The leading features are the same from the foundation.

At first the existence of the society was kept a profound secret and they used to meet after other students had gone to bed, or in the country in some old farmer's house. There is an

25. All through this letter the writer has mixed up Linton and Marshall. As we know from the previous letters in this series and from the minutes of the Alpha chapter, the part played by Marshall is the part which in this letter is ascribed to Linton. This letter, written only five years after the foundation of the fraternity, shows how inaccurate the memory of college students is apt to be and the advisability of having written records.

old house about a mile from town of which it was positively affirmed in those days that it was haunted. The boys used to obtain the key from the owner who lived in town and make their way out there—transact their business and return after all was silent about college. It is a rich treat to hear one of the old patriarchs tell of these days. To this secrecy they ascribe their success.

And of our success here we for ourselves have reason to be proud. We never elected but one man who refused to join us and he was promised to the Alphas. Our eleven members here now have been offered Alpha pins before we elected them and refused them. They preferred to "wear the badge and bear the name of Beta Theta Pi." About six weeks since we made known the positive existence of our society. It has been for years conjectured that such a society did exist but was not certainly known. It must be galling to the Alphas to see us wearing the Beta badge who refused the Alpha. We always have had and always intend to have the finest fellows and best scholars at the institution in our number. One of our men will deliver the Valedictory to our class. We have the Alpha constitution and Covenant in our possession and will use it when necessary. The history of the branches you will have to obtain from the respective chapters.

J. S. NEWBERRY, MICHIGAN, TO HIRAM STRONG, MIAMI.

ANN ARBOR, MICH., July 21, 1846.

There is, I believe, in town, a member of the A Δ Φ, from Hudson. He has probably come for the purpose of arranging a chapter here; but for this we care very little; but there are matters of more importance connected with his arrival. Since he has been in town (he came last night) one of the Alphas (*in prospectu*) informed us that in less than three weeks he could obtain the constitution of Beta Theta Pi. Now, if this is true, either you or the Hudson brothers must know something about it. Perhaps that *detestable expelled Miller* has made the most of his villainy and exposed all he knows to the Alphas; but still I am inclined to think that they are trying to "gas" us extensively; still, it is altogether best to be on our guard.

I have written to Hudson this morning. In your correspondence with the other chapters, it might be well to mention this, and we can soon fathom this if there is any truth in it.

We have before suggested to you the propriety of holding a special convention at Hudson about the time of their commencement. And if any of our secrets have been revealed, it is now doubly important. We shall await your answer with considerable anxiety, and you would much oblige us, and not only us, but the whole Fraternity by writing *immediately* by return mail if possible.

Please to send us the names of all the *Recorders* you know; and in every letter you write *do* stir up every one with a "long stick" to a more vigorous system of correspondence. Especially give us all the information you may possess about the "little baby Betas" you, our dear mother, have been engaged in bringing forth.

Since I last wrote you we have initiated one more, a junior, and whom the Alphas ²⁶ have been fishing for for some time, but he skipped them completely, and as ever the Alphas will have to "cave." We are all in fine spirits; hold a meeting this evening. By the way, give us all the news or information you may possess with regard to the Chi Psis, who are our rivals here.

JEROME S. GILLET, MIAMI, TO JOHN S. NEWBERRY, MICHIGAN.

OXFORD, OHIO, July 26, 1846.

According to the sixth article of our constitution it becomes my duty to "make out a statement of the condition of our chapter, and transmit the same to the other chapters." Every six months, new officers are elected, and it, of course, becomes necessary that information on this point should be given to the various chapters, so that it may be known to whom to direct correspondence, and (what is too much neglected) a vigorous system of inter-communication be kept up. Our officers for the next six months are: Wm. K. Osborn, President; J. S. Gillet, Recorder.

John G. Miller has been *expelled*. He conducted himself

²⁶ The "Alphas" referred to at this place in the letter are the Alpha Alpha society referred to in the letter of January 8th, 1846, and not the Alpha Delta Phi as might be supposed from the text of the first part of the letter.

while under suspension, in a manner unworthy a Beta Theta Pi, and unbecoming a gentleman. Our condition at this time is in all respects truly flattering. The Betas at the coming commencement take the principal honors of the institution. We are out and wear our pins, and will be addressed at the close of the session, our anniversary, by Stanley Mathews, a member of the Cincinnati chapter. There is nothing like keeping the blood circulating. We have written to all the chapters for the purpose of obtaining permission to establish branches at Marietta College, Ohio, at Danville, Ky., and Columbia College, S. C., sometime since, but have received answers from none except the Hudson chapter.

It is necessary that there should be a general understanding in regard to the Triennial Convention on the 24th or 25th of April, 1847. It is to be held at Cincinnati. We have received the names of all the members of the Beta Theta Pi from the various branches for their insertion in the catalogue. The Canonsburg Betas think the catalogue should be published merely as a list of names, so that those chapters, whose existence is entirely secret, may not be in danger of being made known.

FROM GEORGE W. CLARK, JEFFERSON, TO JOHN S. NEWBERRY,
MICHIGAN.

CANONSBURG, PA., July 28, 1846.

Yours of the 22nd is now before me, I hasten immediately on the receipt of it to fulfill my promise. It is unnecessary to tell you how much we rejoice at the tidings of your prosperity. If you imagine us here actuated by the real "Beta" or as we say "Grecian spirit" then you are prepared to judge for yourselves how much we glory in such news. We call ourselves "Greeks" and all others "barbarians." I will send you herewith a list of all our members, a task which I suppose will be obviated when the catalogue of the Beta association is out, about which you have doubtless heard.

We are about establishing a chapter at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa. When we hear from them we will make known etc. Oxford is the best place to get general information from.

FROM JEROME T. GILLET, MIAMI, TO JOHN S. NEWBERRY,
MICHIGAN.

OXFORD, OHIO, July 30, 1846.

Your letter of the 21st inst., directed to Hiram Strong our ex-recorder was received here day before yesterday. You will have seen before this time, that we mailed you a letter just two days prior to the time yours was received giving you a big account of our equipment here and the condition of "matters and things in general."

In answer to your inquiries in relation to the supposed exposure of us by Miller, we have only to say, that so far as we know, the probabilities are against the supposition. It is indeed true that some of Miller's threats of vengeance against us when we had him under suspension, would seem to indicate that he had some clue upon the society. We will quote you a few lines from a letter he wrote, confidentially, to one of our members here, after we had suspended the gentleman but before we had expelled him. After considerable vituperation, venom and spleen, he says "The love of revenge is my strongest passion and I'll have it, if I have to destroy the Beta Theta Pi society *root and branch*. *I have all the means in my possession; the constitution; names of the members, etc.,* are all in my power, and if my rights are not soon regarded, I'll send the rotten fabric into tatters." We are inclined to think that Miller has not got the constitution of the Beta Theta Pi, which he so menacingly asserts he has.

The facts of the case are just these; when the society had it in contemplation to suspend Mr. Miller, and after they had done so, our first care was to secure the books and papers belonging to the chapter which were in his possession then (he being the recorder at that time) before we notified him of the action we had taken. This we *effected entirely*. Now it is not plausible, at least not probable, that this passionate lover of "revenge" should have had a duplicate of our constitution in his own private possession previous to his suspension; and in as much as we are tolerably certain that he could not have procured it from another chapter, since we wrote to all the chapters immediately, informing them of the circumstances and putting them on their guard; and as we are positive that he did not get his "means" by which to expose us from the *Alpha* chapter. I say taking all this into

consideration, it is not probable that J. G. Miller has in his possession the constitution of the Beta Theta Pi. Moreover the manner in which he conducted himself immediately after suspension, weeping and crying like a child, seemed to indicate the despair of one who had been strung up between heaven and earth, without an inch of soil on which to rest.

If the Hudson chapter knew anything in regard to the case under consideration, Brother C. W. Palmer should have written to all instant. Our opinion however is that we have *not* been exposed. We believe that all this vaunting braggadocia of John G. Miller is mere "*stuff*" manufactured for the occasion—a miserable artifice concocted for the purpose of *frightening* us into such a state of "delirium tremens," as that we might be induced to take him back (!) forsooth; or at least give him an honorable dismissal, by which he might go and join our *dear friends* the *Alphas*, and thus be enabled to *crow* over us in a manner most gratifying to his sensitive and very delicate feeling of "revenge."

You stated in your letter, that an A Δ Φ had recently arrived in your town for the ostensible purpose of establishing a chapter there, and that it was boasted he could produce the constitution of the Beta Theta Pi, in less than three weeks. Had you heard this boast as often as we have down here, you would not be very much amazed or affected by it. It has been the chant of the *Alphas* about here, ever since the Beta society had its origin (no telling how long before) that they could produce the constitution in less than an hour. But notwithstanding these stories, we venture to say that the *true* document is *not now* in the hands of the "uncircumcised," or that they possessed at most only a pitiable imitation scratched off from memory.

John Miller is not himself an Alpha nor can he be; they are too shrewd to elect a man we have *expelled*; for let them take what we throw away, and it is *our* turn to crow. John G. Miller, will have to fight his battles alone.

He cannot abuse us at Columbus for there are as noble hearted and true Betas there as ever wore the badge of the "diamond and wreath." But even suppose he does explode all his schemes of revenge and exposure, suppose he does give as strong a broadside as his weak ribs will permit, he cannot injure the

proud vessel, that carries at her mast head the broad pennon of the Beta Theta Pi; and when the smoke of his fire blows away, he will appear in all his glorious littleness of nonentity despised by all and honored by none. Secrecy is not the vital principle in our Society; it has got the "stamina" the real "lignum vitae" within it, and if we are slightly exposed we can change what is known for what is *not* known. If you get an answer from Hudson with important development please let us know, in the answer you send us, to our preceding letter.

I believe there is no branch of the Chi Psi here though we've got a set of as hot headed $\Lambda \Delta \Phi$'s, as ever donned the "green star and crescent."

CHAPTER IV.

FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WABASH CHAPTER TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WILLIAMS CHAPTER.

This period, covering the college year 1846-47, was one of quiet activity and conservative extension. The most important event of the year was the holding of a special convention, May 14th, 1847, at Cincinnati. It will be recollected that the constitution provided for a triennial convention, and as the convention of 1842 was held at Cincinnati in August of that year, a convention should have been held in 1845. Just why this was not done is not known. The letters printed in this chapter and in the preceding one show that from time to time a convention was contemplated, but it was not until two or three of the chapters insisted upon the matter, that they induced their more reluctant brethren to agree to such a meeting, and then they disagreed, as will be seen from the correspondence, concerning both the time and place, each chapter quite naturally desiring both time and place to suit their own particular convenience.

The convention was held at Cincinnati, May 14th, 1847. There were delegates present from Miami, Cincinnati, Wabash, Western Reserve, Jefferson, Michigan, and Indiana Asbury.

The principal action of this convention related to a change in the system of government establishing what was known as The Presiding Chapter System. The following was the constitutional provision establishing it:

"There shall be a Presiding Chapter chosen at each triennial convention, with no extra legislative power, which shall be made the depository of particular information in regard to each chapter, to whom all propositions requiring the actions of the association shall be submitted, and by whom the decision of the chapters shall be obtained and transmitted to the several chapters and which shall be the centre of all business correspondence."

It will be seen that this was an attempt to provide for an

executive body, but the Presiding Chapter was shorn of all power. It was made merely a depository of information and the medium through which propositions were to be transmitted to the several chapters. The fraternity seemed to be much afraid of any central executive authority. In the course of time, the presiding chapter actually was obliged to assume some authority but when this occurred the other chapters were always jealous of it, and the system remained weak and inefficient until 1879, when it was replaced by a proper working organization.

This same system under one name or another was common to all the college fraternities; its adoption was due either to imitation of one by another or arose out of the circumstances of the situation common to all. In some fraternities the original mother chapter kept the reins of authority such as they were, for many years, and one or two had no presiding chapter system and in fact no system at all, but constituted a series of little independent organizations having nothing in common but their name and so-called secrets.

The priority of the chapters as indicated by their Greek letter names, which had been established down to the time of this convention, was as follows:

Alpha, Miami; Beta, Cincinnati; Gamma, Western Reserve; Delta, Ohio; Epsilon, Transylvania; Zeta, Jefferson; Eta, Harvard; Theta, Princeton; Iota, Indiana Asbury; Kappa, Indiana; Lambda, Michigan; and Mu, Wabash. The Williams chapter would have been called Nu had it been established prior to the convention, but it actually was not organized until May 16th, 1847. The convention declared the Cincinnati, Ohio and Harvard chapters extinct and directed that the names of their members should be transferred to the list of the Miami chapter and it directed further that after the adjournment of the convention, the order of the priority of the chapters should be as follows:

Alpha, Miami; Beta, Western Reserve; Gamma, Transylvania; Delta, Jefferson; Epsilon, Princeton; Zeta, Indiana Asbury; Eta, Indiana; Theta, Michigan; Iota, Wabash, and Kappa, Williams. Actually the Transylvania and Princeton chapters were no longer active at the date of this convention but their condition did not seem to have been known or realized.

The convention provided that a committee consisting of George L. Becker of the Michigan Chapter, and Charles W. Palmer of the Western Reserve Chapter, should prepare and forward an address on behalf of the convention to the several chapters, but so far as is known no copy of that address has been preserved.

When the convention adjourned, it directed that the triennial convention should be held at the time prescribed by the constitution, namely in 1848, and should assemble at Hudson, Ohio. Alpha at Miami was made the presiding chapter.

FRANKLIN L. PARKER, MICHIGAN, TO JEROME T. GILLETT,
MIAMI.

ANN ARBOR, MICH., Sept. 28, 1846.

By request of our Recorder, (J. S. Newberry) who complains somewhat on account of having so much writing to do, I have consented to write a few lines to you. We received your letter dated August 1st, not, however, until we returned here at the commencement of this term. We were gratified to learn that our liability to exposure was regarded by you in nearly the same light in which we saw it. We have seen some of our Hudson brethren, and talked with them on the subject; they are not willing to give the story any credence whatever.

There has lately a serious question arisen in the minds of our very conscientious faculty, viz: Whether college secret societies shall exist in our institution? which question they have decided in the negative; and, accordingly, have made a law that no one shall be admitted to membership in this institution without first pledging himself to have nothing to do with secret societies during his stay. Those who have entered this term have been compelled to accept these conditions. The faculty at first thought of annihilating all secret societies at once; but when they found how extensive they were and what difficulty they would be likely to meet with, they concluded to abandon the project, so that those who are now members will not probably be disturbed; but it will be difficult to sustain the society in college unless we can induce the faculty to retract, for which purpose some of our

members have suggested the plan of showing certain portions of our constitution to a member of the faculty, thinking that we might thereby convince them that our society is a source of improvement, and thus obtain their consent to a continuation of this chapter. As a society, we have taken no action on the subject; and, of course, shall do nothing about it without the consent of the other chapters.

I suppose we might alter the character of our chapter somewhat, and so take in members immediately after they graduate; the greatest difficulty would be in sustaining regular meetings of the society since there will be at least, for some time, very few resident graduates in this place.

Our brethren at Hudson are in favor of a convention to be held at their place during the week of their junior exhibition next spring, to which we shall not object, and will endeavor to send a delegation if the convention should be held there. I believe we have initiated one since we wrote to you, David M. Cooper, of Detroit, a member of the junior class. We shall probably, within a few days, admit Thomas S. Blackmar, of Moscow, Mich., a member of the sophomore class. We wish all the information respecting recorders that can be had. B. R. Mitchell, M. D., is Recorder at Lexington.

HIRAM STRONG, MIAMI, TO JEROME T. GILLETT, MIAMI.

CENTREVILLE, October 21, 1846.

After waiting for some time in expectation of a letter from Oxford, I have determined to write you a few lines, in order to learn the news, if you have any to give. I want to hear from old Miami—I want to know how matters and things stood at the beginning of this session, and how they stand now; how the Erodelphian and Miami societies are prospering, and, above all, how stands the Beta Theta Pi—(I have not quite forgotten all my Greek letters); who have been elected this session? In fine, I want to know everything that is of interest to the students, for it will be of as much interest to me as though I was still there. I have no news of any importance to give you; I write only to get an answer. We have Whig news, but I suppose that you will receive before this letter. That is, Pennsyl-

vania has turned a complete political "sommersault." The Whig Canal Commissioner, the only officer who is running throughout the State, is elected by a large majority. Bebb is elected by between two and three thousand, and we have both branches of the Ohio Legislature.

I expect to commence teaching school near town next Monday. I am studying law under W. J. McKinney of Dayton.

I received a letter, not long ago, from Charley Gilmore. He is studying law under Gen. Taylor, of Chillicothe. You must excuse this short, hasty letter. Write me a long one and I will return the compliment. Send me a list of the Crawfordsville chapter, and, if you have heard from that new chapter near Canonsburg (I forget the name), send a list of that also. Give my respects to the Betas.

SAMUEL T. WILSON, JEFFERSON, TO JEROME T. GILLET, MIAMI.

CANONSBURG, PA., November 13, 1846.

By the will of our chapter it has become my pleasing, yet somewhat laborious, duty of laying before the several chapters the "status" of ours. At an election held at the close of last session Mr. G. D. Archibald was chosen President for the ensuing half year, and your "humble servant" Recorder. I have examined our constitution once—ay, twice—to see if it were *absolutely* necessary to transmit the names of all our members, both ancient and modern. But I find the article on that subject is "yea and amen," so I shall proceed to 'bide by it.

The latter five I have given with their residences, in order that you may add them to your list of *us*, if you have not already done so, for I know not if brother Clark has given you all the five last above.

Our chapter is in a flourishing condition and our future prospects, so far as I can read the "fate of empires in the twinkling stars," are quite flattering—cheering.

At the close of our last college session we sent forth seven "choice spirits" to grapple with the world's cold scorn, and, perchance, to act many parts in life's great drama, and if the world will only "show them a chance for their *White 'Ally*," they will answer for themselves right nobly. But, although we did send out so many, we still have "a few more left," of the "same

sort." We number nine—no eight—in attendance. In a word, we are in a flourishing condition; our prospects are bright and flattering, and we have all to hope.

In your last letter to "Clark," which is now before me, you speak of the "tri-convention," more particularly of the *place* for holding said convention. I have also a communication from Hudson on the same subject. Our chapter express their decided partiality in favor of Cincinnati as being much the "suitabler" place of the two. Hudson would be quite inconvenient, for us especially, to get to, whilst Cincinnati is comparatively easy of access to all, and I think that we (I make this expression entirely upon my own responsibility, however)—I think that we could hardly send a delegate to Hudson at that time for the reasons above mentioned, and also because it would be in the very midst of our session. But, be this as it may, our chapter is altogether in favor of Cincinnati; being, as you say, of easy access by water. We have nothing to suggest relative to the time of convention.

We have received a communication from Ann Arbor confirming the statement which you gave us of their difficulties. They are indeed in a strait, and I am truly sorry for them, and our chapter expresses its sympathy for its sister, hoping, fondly hoping, however, that the clouds that now lower o'er them may pass away; or, if the storm must break, that they may be able to weather it safely.

We had a report here yesterday that one of your members had "peached" and revealed all the secrets of the brotherhood. We—or, rather, the only one of our members who is known positively to be one—found this report in a letter in the hands of one of the "barbarians" here. Please let us know the certainty of the thing, and, if it be so, the author.¹

JOHN M. BUSH, OHIO, TO JEROME T. GILLETT, MIAMI.

TREMONT, TAZEWELL CO., ILL.,

Nov. 23, 1846.

Some few days since I received a communication from

1. This probably refers to the attempted exposure of the fraternity by John G. Miller, the expelled member of the Miami chapter, referred to in previous correspondence.

you as the Recorder of the *Alpha chapter of the Beta Theta Pi*, requesting me "to be present at the next anniversary, August, 1847, and deliver before the chapter a *poem* suitable to the occasion. Although I do not know of any good ground which the chapter could have had for adopting the *complimentary* part of the resolution containing this invitation, still, I am not unwilling to *make an effort* on the coming occasion to fulfill the duty you have assigned me. And you may say to the chapter that I shall try to be there and do the best I can.

Be assured I feel much pride and great pleasure in this kindly notice of the Alpha chapter. Some of the sweetest memories of my college days are associated with our Fraternity, and many of my warmest and best friends are connected with its different branches.

FROM JOHN W. TAYLOR, WABASH, TO JEROME T. GILLET, MIAMI.

CRAWFORDSVILLE, IND., Dec. 6, 1846.

Your communication of November 20th, was received by Mr. Campbell a few days since. The thanks of the chapter are tendered for the information it contained. We wish, however, a little further information respecting the letter by which our chapter shall be known, as the constitution of our association says it must be one denoting the *priority* of the chapter. You speak of the Lambda chapter, at Ann Arbor. This is the eleventh letter in the order of the Greek alphabet. Does ours come next? Please let us know what our letter will be and the manner of selecting, as we wish to get a stamp as soon as possible.

The number of our members is six, viz: John L. Campbell, President; J. W. Taylor, Recorder; J. Coburn, J. S. Hougham, V. D. Collins and J. Holman. It is expected that a number of others will join soon. There is a good feeling existing among the members, and a spirit to cultivate confidence and friendship.

I wish you would inform us where the seal and badge or breastpins can be best obtained, and of the usual cost.

The members of our chapter are in favor of holding the triennial convention in Cincinnati, as it will be more convenient to send our delegate to that place.

Please write soon, we wish to procure a seal before I commence the correspondence with the other chapters. Any further information which you think of service to us will be thankfully received, as we are a young branch of the vine.

EDWARD B. STEVENS, MIAMI, TO JEROME T. GILLETT, MIAMI.

MONROE, December 9, 1846.

It has been so long since I heard the first syllable (or rather the last syllable), from the "classic shades," that I have been of late quite homesick towards *the old place*. There has been with me quite a yearning towards Oxford as towards the home of my youth. With such childish feelings coming over me occasionally, I trust you will pardon the liberty I have taken in drawing upon your indulgence with this, which, I can promise in the outset, will be a very prosy letter; but even this sort used to be quite welcome visitors to myself when I used to dwell in those courts; then it is true, however, we (the Greeks) used to walk or better stand in *nominis umbra*, and weak in force, with the character of plotting Illuminati (so far as suspected), the kind, sympathizing remembrance of absent well-wishers was perhaps more truly acceptable than these may be in the days of your prosperity; but, if so, if there is no longer so much necessity for the god-speed of the elder brothers for the success of the little bantling in its struggling progress through its childhood, we may yet be allowed in some sort to indulge in those feelings prompted by a *sincere love* for the good fame of Beta-ism; to rejoice over its success; to shout in its intellectual triumphs; to cast the curling lips of scorn and contemptuous pity in return for the hisses of its enemies; in a word, viewing with honorable pride the progress and crescentic career of its existence—if no more, may we not secretly exult? I, too, am enrolled on the tablets of the Beta Theta Pi.

In days Lang Syne, Jerome, I used to be mixed up in all the excitement of college politics; and, for the most part since I have left Oxford, I have heretofore kept a kind of running thread of its history; but as of late, this has not been my good fortune, and as already intimated, I have felt the loss very sensibly. I should then, my dear fellow, esteem it as a kind of an act of charity if, at some convenient season, you should write me the chapters

of the continued history of Miami University for the past few months.

Who are your spring speakers? How far have the Alphas succeeded in gerrymandering you? Who are the big guns to represent the halls next August, etc.? Some of my ancient friends once deprecated very much the remembrance of such college chit chat. However much I may find to laugh at as foolish in the recollection of some of those things—yet, they are follies that I love to recall to my mind—they are among the most pleasurable of associations and I am the farthest from agreeing with my old friend. Occasionally I come in contact with some of our fellows. Brother Ward, of Lebanon, sometimes pleads in the courts of our village justice, and is in considerable estimation among our citizens. On last Friday evening he had a lecture before our Lyceum. His theme, the "Genius of the Grecian Republics," was not particularly *new*, but was treated in a manner quite creditable to himself, and of which, as a friend, I was not at all ashamed.

Of course you have not failed to observe that some of the brethern have been winning laurels at the storming of Monterey. To read the eulogisms in some of the Cincinnati papers on Dan McCleary,² you would rank him about next to Gen. Taylor; not inferior, anyhow, to Col. Weller. Stanley Matthews, I should think, would not be slow to give place to such puffs—as in duty bound—by the by—that is another promotion in our ranks; and what do you think of Stanley as an editor³? Would not the Herald, under the conduction of T. Stanley Matthews, Esq., be a good vehicle for the propagation of the interests of our Fraternity?

For if "Beta Theta Pi" is not exactly in strict consonance with the spirit of that other maxim: "All men are born free and equal," which is the professed foundation of anti-slavery principles: still, I reckon, we might make interest for a spare corner on some kind of terms.

We have no news in our little town, except as Josh Liggett

2. This refers to Daniel McCleary, Miami '42, who was lieutenant in the army invading Mexico and was distinguished for bravery in one or two actions. He died of yellow fever at Vera Cruz the following year.

3. At the time spoken of, Stanley Matthews was editor of the Cincinnati Herald.

would say, the twaddle of some one-fourth dozen executive messages, the din of which it is impossible to shut out from our ears. Often, in the anguish of my soul, have I exclaimed, in the language of old President Bishop, "Oh! that the nation would become wise and learn logic." Just now it would be a comfort if a portion of our rulers alone had some of the first principles of that science beaten into their blundering craniums. There is nothing plainer to me than that there, of necessity, must and always will be an aristocracy in this world—its people will ever be governed by the *few*. Our fathers thought they had arrived at that mode by which that *few* should be a *chosen few*; but I confess I am not quite certain that they arrived at perfection in their notions of politics. Our rulers are *sham rulers*; our aristocracy is not the one yet that Nature created; our chieftain is a Caesar in everything except his distinguishing trait—the *heroic*.

I expect a medical student to commence reading in our office next spring, from Bloomington, Ind., by name, Graham; suppose you favor me with a list of the members of that chapter, as I might find amusement in some of his innocent remarks. Is that chapter secret?

JEROME T. GILLET, MIAMI, TO JOHN S. NEWBERRY, MICHIGAN.

OXFORD, OHIO, January 3, 1847.

It has been some time since we heard from you and we would have written sooner ourselves, but we have been waiting until we could hear enough from all the chapters to determine their sentiments in regard to the Triennial Convention. This appears to be altogether settled. There are five chapters in favor of Cincinnati, as the place, and the 1st of May as the time for holding the convention. Hudson and your own chapter alone are opposed to this place. The vote is as follows:

Affirmative: Canonsburg, Crawfordsville, Greencastle, Bloomington, Oxford. *Negative*: Ann Arbor, Hudson.

The Canonsburg chapter intimated that they did not think they could send a delegate to Hudson at all. The Bloomington and Crawfordsville chapters said about the same thing. And there is no doubt that the place selected is better for *all*, as being much the more central of the two. Although it might be some

what of an inconvenience to one or two of the more distant, as for instance your own chapter, as you will be about the most distant. Our last attempt was a discouraging and disgraceful failure as you will perhaps recollect. This effort must and we hope will succeed. We owe it to ourselves, we owe it to each other and we owe it to the cause. We must meet once more, in a social capacity where we can grasp the hand of fellowship and by a close communion of "kindred hearts" draw tighter the bonds of friendship and fidelity, than can be done by any system of uncertain and distant correspondence. Will you be with us? Can we say with perfect confidence that Ann Arbor will be represented in the coming convention? We know that you are a considerable distance from the center, but like the planets, the same power and the same bond of union holds us together. We sympathize with you in the difficulties which have, tempest like, beset you, but we hope you may yet be able to weather out the storm, and our parting advice would be "Don't give up the ship."

CHARLES W. PALMER, WESTERN RESERVE, TO JEROME T. GILLET, MIAMI.

HUDSON, OHIO, January 21, 1847.

I received your letter upon my return after vacation, and take this first leisure opportunity of answering it. You seem to prefer Cincinnati to Hudson as the place for the convention. Now, we are not strenuous, and yet we want that done which will conduce most to the interests of the association. Now, Ann Arbor, Jefferson and Hudson are for Hudson, as you have doubtless before this been informed that Jefferson accedes to the proposition of holding it here. Then we have Oxford, Crawfordsville and Greencastle for Cincinnati. Now what shall we do? This place is more easy of access to Ann Arbor than Cincinnati, and as easy for Jefferson, and, of course, more so for us. Now, though it may be rather more inconvenient for you, is it just to ask us always to go down there? We have been to Cincinnati twice at Conventions, by representatives, and it seems no more than just that there should be rotation.

Our other reasons were mentioned in my previous letter, to which I pray you refer and reflect upon them, and write us im-

mediately, letting us know your *final* determination. We want the society made more efficient, and will do what we can to attain this object. Please consider the matter again, and see if you can not conclude to accede to the proposition.

I received, a few days since, a letter from Brother Pelton, who is now in Massachusetts, proposing the establishment of a chapter at Williams College. He urges the plan strongly and says it *cannot* fail. There are *eleven* fellows who will go into it, and these, too, the best in the sophomore and freshman classes. In Brother Pelton we feel the most certain confidence, and no doubt everything would be done with due caution and reflection. We have given our consent to the project, and now ask yours, hoping it will be forwarded immediately, as we ought not to let so good an opportunity slip.

Our seniors' annual election was held last meeting and it being my duty to give you our list, I present you the following:

SAMUEL BISSELL,	A B.	Milan, O., Tutor.
EBENEZER BUSHNELL,	"	Newark, O., Tutor.
CHARLES R. PIERCE,	"	Hudson, O., Med. S't.
JOHN S. NEWBERRY,	"	Cuyahoga Falls, O., S't.
CHARLES W. PALMER,		Ohio City, Junior.
THOMAS DOGGETT,		Ohio City, Junior.
CHARLES A. MORTON,		Charleston, O., Junior.
JOSEPH B. MERRIAM,		Randolph, O., Junior.
RUFUS F. SAWYER,		Austinburgh, O., Soph.
GEORGE E. PAYNE,		Chardon, O., Soph.
THEODORE S. PAYNE,		New Haven, Conn., Soph.
CHENEY ARMSTRONG,		Chardon, O., Soph.

Our prospects are fine for just the ones we want of the freshman class. We have at present the best two in the sophomore class connected with us without the knowledge of the Alphas, and they are straining every nerve to get them to become Alphas. 'Tis really amusing to see their tactics. They spare no abuse in speaking to them of us, and feel quite confident of getting them. Poor fellows, doomed to what disappointment! We shall undeceive them in about two weeks, for we have sent for four badges for the Sophs. When they come, oh! the woe be-

gone faces of our *brethren* of the *crescent* and *star*.⁴ Wish you could be here to enjoy the sport.

Please write soon, as we should like to hear as soon as possible your decision in relation to the various matters submitted to you. My kind regards to the brethren generally, and to yourself.

JOHN N. TAYLOR, WABASH, TO JEROME T. GILLETT, MIAMI.

CRAWFORDSVILLE, IND., Feb. 8, 1847.

We received your letter of Dec. 23 direct. We are awake here in the cause of—and——, adding to our band, of such as shall be steadfast. Since I last wrote, S. C. Taber has become a member. The names of the others, I think, were given in my last. We now number seven on the ground, all (if I may be a little egotistical) genuine "Simon pures." Our delegate to the convention is V. D. Collins, of LaFayette; besides him two other members will probably go also. We have not been able to obtain a stamp yet, but find some difficulty in getting a man to make it.

We are not fully informed respecting the origin and establishment of the order. As yours is the Alpha chapter, you, of course, can give us some or all of its history, which would be very interesting for us; it is not desired, however, unless perfectly proper and consistent with the policy of the association. We would like to know also what the character of the annual celebrations are; whether private or public, and how far it is generally thought advisable to let the existence of a branch be known through the college. Ours thus far is entirely unknown to any person except the members, as every one we applied to readily joined.

There is some antipathy entertained here by the faculty against secret societies, consequently we have been very cautious.

We have a rival society here called the Atalantian; it, however, has the consolation of taking up with second or third rate members, most of whom would not be welcomed to the ranks of our glorious brotherhood. Our enlistment has been greeted in a most cheering manner by some of the chapters, and we have in our turn responded to their salutations. We have only the

4. This refers to the Alpha Delta Phi, the Star and Crescent being the two prominent emblems of their badge.

names of six chapters with their Recorders, viz: Western Reserve, Bloomington, Canonsburg, Oxford, Ann Arbor and Greencastle. Ours is the twelfth, consequently five are unknown to us. If you can furnish us with their names, or them with ours, and request them to commence the correspondence, we can make the report required by the constitution, as our six months from the foundation has expired.

We feel proud of our association, and although we are the youngest chapter, we do not intend to be in the rear in sustaining the dignity and character of the order of the Beta Theta Pi.

JEROME G. GILLETT, MIAMI, TO JOHN S. NEWBERRY, MICHIGAN.

OXFORD, OHIO, February 25, 1847.

No doubt you have thought it very strange that I have not written to you sooner in answer to your very pressing letter. But I presume, you will excuse us when you have learned the reason; it is this: you recollect that you were mainly desirous to learn something in regard to the "Crawfordsville and Springfield Chapters." Now in reference to the Springfield⁵ chapter, you perhaps know as much as ourselves, our intimation that the chapter was founded was based on a passage in a letter received from the Bloomington chapter, as follows: Speaking of some matters which might be submitted to the Triennial Convention he says: "A member of the Springfield chapter in a communication to our chapter gave us a suggestion of some changes which he thought would greatly facilitate the purpose of the association, etc."

In order to find out something in regard to the said Springfield chapter, we wrote back immediately to the Recorder of the Bloomington chapter, H. H. Trimble, and pressed him very strongly to answer us *immediately*—but as yet we have received no answer; and it was owing to this that we have not written to you sooner.

Some six months ago the question was agitated, whether there ought to be a chapter established at Springfield and perhaps the chapter alluded to was the offspring of that agitation. We

5. In some of the letters this is given as Springfield, Illinois, in some as Springfield, Pennsylvania, and yet others as Springfield, Ohio. The probability is that it refers to a college at Springfield, Illinois, then somewhat hopeful of becoming the state university.

can however say nothing definite until we have heard from Bloomington. We would advise you to write also. They appear to be rather luke-warm at Bloomington.

In regard to the Crawfordsville chapter we are happy to say that they are in a prosperous condition; and so far from being the "baby Chapter" it seems as if it was already in its manhood and maturity. J. W. Taylor is the Recorder. In regard to the Triennial Convention, and the time and place of its meeting we are totally at a loss to state any thing definite.

As to your suggestions; we think that it will be too great a postponement if deferred until the fall of 1848—we want something done *now*—*now* is the time for action. It has been *five* years since we have had a convention, instead of *three* and it appears to me (for I speak only for myself, the chapter not having yet considered the matter) that the sooner we can hold a convention the better.

Jefferson seems to have turned a complete somersault on the subject. We do not understand her reason and motives. We do sincerely hope, that the chapters be brought to harmonize on the subject of the Convention. We have given our consent to the establishment of a chapter at Williams College, Mass., by the Hudson chapter.

VARNUM D. COLLINS, WABASH, TO AMOS W. REAGAN,
INDIANA ASBURY.

WABASH COLLEGE, March 9th, 1847.

Owing to certain disclosures which have happened at this place, with reference to our association, I have thought it expedient to inform you of the fact, at an early period, in hopes that you might throw some light upon the subject.

You are aware, I presume, that we have to keep secret the existence of our chapter, and we thought that we would succeed admirably but from some cause it has leaked out, and with it some information which is highly dangerous for the uninitiated to possess.

Certain persons, (Horace Carter and Milton D. Ivins I think) have had the meanness to break through the barriers of gentlemanly conduct, honesty, and *locks* for the express purpose of examining our constitution and correspondence.

They have succeeded in reading a letter, or so, but nothing else; yet from these, considerable information was obtained, as they were about the first letters we received from the Alpha chapter.

Many hints have been dropped that the first idea of a chapter being located at our College, was received from Greencastle, and also, that its founder, John Coburn,⁶ was initiated at your chapter. A piece of information, by the bye, untruly known to us, although it may be true.

We feel exceedingly mortified that so much is revealed of our association, and we the channel of information; and especially so, because we cannot with absolute certainty, place our mark of disapprobation, upon the offender, or offenders.

Our Brethren, we fear, will think that this disclosure has been through carelessness on our part, but I assure you, that so far as we are concerned, we are exempt from blame.

It is a perfect mystery, how our existence was known and I fear it will remain so. A committee from our chapter, waited upon the above-named gents, to give the source of their information—but all demands were ineffectual. We are going to riddle out this treachery, if treachery it be, to its true source, and make the authors suffer.

It is reported here that a similar discovery has been made at your place. If not, it will be; so look out. These persons understand, together with many other things which should not be known, much less talked about, by any impudent busybody.

The following is a list of our members absent and present: John Coburn, A.B., Indianapolis, Ind.; John S. Hougham, A.B., Danville, Ill.; J. W. Taylor, Starkio, N. Y.; John L. Campbell, Salem, Ind.; Jesse L. Holman, Aurora, Ind.; V. D. Collins, La-Fayette, Ind.; George Brown, Delphi, Ind.; Wm. K. Houston, New Winchester, Ind.; Stephen C. Taber, Logansport, Ind.

We are in a flourishing condition. I have lately heard from several chapters, all progressing finely.

Say nothing of this to the other chapters, but answer this immediately, and also throw what light you can on this mystery of iniquity.

⁶ John Coburn was initiated at Miami, for the express purpose of establishing a chapter at Wabash.

JOHN O. BULLOCK, INDIANA, TO JEROME T. GILLETT, MIAMI.

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA, March 11, 1847.

Believing it to be the duty of the chapters to maintain a more regular and frequent correspondence with each other, and having been reminded of this by a brother recorder at Greencastle, I have determined to write to all the chapters.

There is no part of our system, which more urgently demands a change for the better, than our method of correspondence. It is to be hoped that the convention will revise our constitution with reference to a change in that part of it. As far as we can learn all of the chapters wish some change made, and I suppose their delegates will be instructed to advocate some remedy for our present defective system of interchange of information and sympathy. By letters received from several of the chapters we learn that they have appointed delegates, and from present appearance I should suppose that all will be represented.

We are placed in a serious dilemma, not knowing where the delegates will meet each other. You will oblige them very much if you will throw some light on this subject immediately, for our session will be out now in the course of two or three weeks and the delegates will have departed for their homes.

By a letter received from the Crawfordsville chapter, some few days since, we learn that they are in a flourishing condition, and expect to be well represented at the convention.

In your last letter you mentioned something about a chapter at Springfield. There is no chapter there. The Recorder who preceded me received a letter from a member who resides at Springfield, but not from a chapter; he may have in that matter misinformed you.

We are all getting along finely; the chapter is increasing its list of members. You will please answer this immediately. I send you a copy of our members in the order of their initiation:

T. B. GRAHAM (founder),
JNO. G. CLENDENIN (deceased),
JONATHAN CLARK,
W. E. SIMPSON (dec'd),
R. Q. ROACHE,
HOMER WHEELER,

Jasper, Ind.
Paoli, Ind.
Louisville, Ky.
Brunswick, Va.
Rockville, Ind.
Bristol, Ind.

R. R. ROBERTS,
 THEOPHILUS PARVIN,
 H. H. TRIMBLE,
 S. N. D. MARTIN,
 S. T. WYLIE,
 W. A. P. MARTIN,
 B. W. WILSON,
 ELKANAH WILLIAMS,
 R. M. OVERSTREET,
 DAVIES BATTERTON (Pres't),
 J. O. BULLOCK,
 M. C. GADBERRY,
 R. MOORE,
 D. HOLLAND,
 P. S. CORNELIUS,
 ORLANDO CLARK,

Newburgh, Ind.
 Abington, Pa.
 Shelbyville, Ind.
 Livonia, Ind.
 Bloomington, Ind.
 Livonia, Ind.
 Bourbon Co., Ky.
 Bedford, Ind.
 Franklin, Ind.
 Bloomington, Ind.
 Louisville, Ky.
 Benton, Mass.
 Bloomington, Ind.
 Dublin, Ind.
 Dearborn Co., Ind.
 Jennings Co., Ind.

THOMAS REAGAN, INDIANA ASBURY, TO ROBERT V. MOORE,
 MIAMI.

GREENCASTLE, IND., March 11, 1847.

Last night the Iota chapter convened, and among other matters we considered the important question which now seems to be agitating the minds of the several branches of our glorious brotherhood, to determine upon a suitable place for holding the triennial convention. In the first place, our chapter believes this absolutely necessary, and that very shortly; otherwise it must fail as did the former.

We learn from our correspondents that the chapters are already divided as regards the point for the meeting of this convention. The decision, as our Hudson correspondent informs us, is this: Ann Arbor, Jefferson and Hudson for Hudson; Oxford, Crawfordsville and Greencastle for Cincinnati.

From this decision we may conclude that when all have their vote for the place, it will still stand as the within vote—about as many for the one as for the other. And as it has already been remarked, unless we shortly determine upon a definite place it must ultimately fail as have others; therefore, for several reasons, our chapter emphatically propose your place (Oxford) as a point for holding this convention.

And now allow me to expose to you a few of these considerations, and we hope they may not be looked at with indifference while this question is being debated in the minds of the brotherhood.

First. By removing it to your place a compromise will be held out to those chapters entertaining different sentiments on this subject—and what, indeed, is more desirable at this present crisis of affairs than to obviate all difficulties, and hence greatly accelerate the period for this meeting?

Secondly. Oxford is the "Alma Mater" of our noble scheme of linking hand and heart in those firm ties for which man was originally intended.

This fact, we think, should exert a great influence over us in the matter of transferring the convention from Cincinnati to your place. For the same reason we think if there is any honor attending said convention—and doubtless there is—you are the more entitled to it. We insist upon your consenting to have it held in that place.

Thirdly. As regards the location of Hudson and Oxford, all will consider the latter place by much the preferable and decidedly more convenient. We cheerfully acquiesce with our Hudson brethren in the belief that the convention should be held where there is an institution of learning and a regularly organized chapter, and for the considerations assigned we believe it should be held with you, and we urgently insist upon your consent. We desire an immediate reply that we may advise the other chapters, and hoping speedily to effect a compromise between the divided chapters—not for the sake of being *umpire* of the occasion, but only to accelerate the period for holding this meeting.

If the state of the roads gets no worse, we shall look for an answer by the 17 inst. The Recorder, now at Bloomington, is John O. Bullock. As a little space remains I send you a list of our members.

ABSENT MEMBERS.

R. N. HUDSON (founder), LL.D.,	Terre Haute, Ind.
JAMES HARLAN, Pres't,	Iowa City College.
JOHN GOODWIN, M. D.,	Brookville, Ind.
JOHN C. CHILDS, A. B.,	New Albany, Ind.

WILLIAM NISBET, A. B.,	Cynthiana, Ind.
NEWTON BOOTH, A. B.,	Paris, Ill.
JAMES REYNOLDS, A. B.,	LaFayette, Ind.
J. P. LUSE, L. D.,	Indianapolis, Ind.
A. W. REAGAN, M. D.,	Moorsville, Ind.

PRESENT MEMBERS.

THOS. REAGAN,	Dublin, Ind.
C. T. CLIPPINGER,	Shippensburg, Penn.
H. C. ELDER,	Greencastle, Ind.
M. L. MCPHERSON,	Moorsville, Ind.
GEO. V. BENTON,	Brownston, Ind.
H. H. TRIMBLE,	Shelbyville, Ind.
E. WILLIAMS,	Bedford, Ind.

Our regards to the brotherhood.

FROM LAWRENCE G. HAY, MIAMI, TO STANLEY MATTHEWS,
CINCINNATI.

MIAMI UNIVERSITY, May 10, 1847.

I have barely time by this morning's mail to inform you that the Triennial Convention of our Order (B). will meet in Cincinnati on Thursday next, of which none of our members in the City have as yet been notified. We wish you to secure the attendance of our brethren in the City—so that the meeting may be as fully attended as possible. Will you be good enough to mention it to Collins, Zachos and others. The Delegates have been requested to stop at the Pearl Street House, where your presence would be desirable on Thursday morning, to direct as to a suitable place of meeting. Messrs. Laws, Little and myself expect to be there on Wednesday evening.

L. G. HAY.

WYLLYS C. RANSOM, MICHIGAN, TO JEROME T. GILLETT, MIAMI.

ANN ARBOR, MICH., May 28, 1847.

I hasten to write to you, having had our election of officers, and knowing that our monthly system of correspondence must soon go into operation, it is necessary that we should know the Records of the different chapters, in order that the interchange between the branches may be complete. We

consider, brethren of the stalwart Alpha, that a new era has dawned upon our existence; that the Beta Theta Pi has begun to breathe the breath of life anew. In short, our convention has cleared away the dark clouds that hovered around our horizon, and the bow of assurance, bright and beautiful, has lighted up our pathway to glory and success. Are we not now all that we claim to be—the Queen Society of the West? Other associations may find a home and a foothold among the rocky glens of the East, and her cold, sterile hills. But the Beta Theta Pi will hold for inheritance the wide spreading prairies of the West; she will claim the supremacy of her broad and majestic streams, and claim as her cherished children the gems of the Western states.

Ten years have not yet passed away, and there are ten chapters who are, we hope, united firm and immovable by the bonds of—and—. There is nothing more to prevent our onward and upward course. In planting our standard in any institution we should be sure that we have a good position and men enough to keep it. We are persuaded that these defunct chapters hurt our society more than anything else that can be attached to us.

Let us all endeavor to extend the influence of our glorious confederation by increasing its branches; but let us be sure we are right and then go ahead. I shall go East before fall, and then, if the right fellows can be found, I shall establish a chapter at Burlington, Vt., Portsmouth, N. H., and Middlebury College⁷ We have already had some correspondence with the Burlington students upon the subject, and think that we may have an opening with some eight or nine good fellows, and we ask the consent of the association to establish a chapter at Burlington. Will you put the question to the different chapters? It is your duty, now you are presiding chapter, and return us an answer as quickly as may be.

We wish to know something about the Williams chapter. Do you know anything about it? We shall expect you to write and send us the list of new Recorders very soon. We ordered seven pins this morn and a new seal, the whole to cost about fifty dollars. Underneath is a complete list of our members, the last seventeen of whom are in regular attendance at our meetings:

7. None of these proposed chapters were ever established. There was no college in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Possibly Brother Ransom meant Hanover, New Hampshire, the site of Dartmouth College.

P. W. H. RAWLES, <i>A. B.</i> ,	Kalamazoo, Mich.
NATHANIEL WEST, <i>A. B.</i>	Detroit, Mich.
E. H. WILLIAMS, <i>M. D.</i> ,	Woodstock, Vt.
JAS. M. WALKER, <i>A. B.</i> ,	Ann Arbor, Mich.
G. L. BECKER, <i>A. B.</i> , Pres't,	Ann Arbor, Mich.
JNO. S. NEWBERRY, Senior,	Romeo, Mich.
D. B. BROWN, Senior,	Plymouth, Mich.
F. L. PARKER, Senior,	Plymouth, Mich.
D. M. COOPER, Junior,	Detroit, Mich.
S. D. MILLER, Junior,	Monroe, Mich
W. C. RANSOM, Junior, (Rec.)	Kalamazoo, Mich.
HORATIO N. SHAW, Junior,	Dover, Mich.
CHARLES BECKWITH, Soph.,	Kalamazoo, Mich.
THOMAS BLACKMAR, Soph.,	Moscow, Mich.
BARZILLAI GRAY, Soph.,	Marshall, Mich.
WM. A. MOORE, Fresh.,	Ypsilanti, Mich.
HENRY POWERS, Fresh.,	Ypsilanti, Mich.
JOHN McMATH, Fresh.,	Ypsilanti, Mich.
SAMUEL HARPER, Fresh.,	Adrian, Mich.
HENRY BARNES, Fresh.,	Jackson, Mich.

SAMUEL T. WILSON, JEFFERSON, TO WYLLYS C. RANSOM,
MICHIGAN.

CANONSBURG, PA., June 22, 1847.

Almost a month after the reception of your last I take my place to respond in a word of greeting to you as you "swing out" in your new dress—as Chapter "Theta" we greet you and feel toward you just as we used to do toward the Chapter "Lambda"⁸ that was. I thought that you and we had just changed names but I see such is not the case. What has become of the "Zeta"? I know not but without boasting I think whoever is so fortunate as to be baptised Zeta will get the name of as bright a star as ever shone in our Grecian Galaxy. We are not dissatisfied with the change. Delta sounds well and we receive it as coming from you with unsullied ermine. In the first place then—our Commencement came off with all the excitement and bustle necessarily attendant upon such an event and of which on the first

8. This first paragraph refers to the changes in the Greek letter names of the chapters made at the convention of 1847.

page of this sheet you have a "Programme" with the Greeks who participated marked. We had quite a fine commencement indeed, graduated a large class, etc. Our President "Dr. Breckenridge" left his resignation and retired to the shades of Kentucky there to wear away his remaining life in fond dalliance with his new wife. "Dr. Beard" has been elected to fill his place, we are not yet informed surely whether he will accept or no. I hope he will however. Well, Brother Ransom, I have been to a wedding—a real Grecian wedding. A Beta married. Hurrah for us! on last Tuesday evening—"Brother John T. Edgar" our delegate to the convention was united in the bonds of matrimony to Miss Smith, daughter of the Rev. Dr. Smith, Professor of the Jefferson College and the next morning left for Nashville. Mr. Brown and myself had the extreme pleasure of acting as groomsmen and need say we did it up brown! We had a most glorious party—in every sense of the word Grecian, the male part of the company being wholly made up of Betas with one single exception. It was a grand assembling of the chapter to witness the marriage of one who has been more dear to us than a Brother, and he is a glorious fellow well worthy of the clasped hands and he has taken home to his bosom as sweet, as tender and as loving a little wife as any fellow need wish to have, a wife worthy a Beta. I almost envied him the possession for with her he takes my heart. Here is happiness to the Greek and his fairest bride with Heaven's choicest blessings attending them. Will you not respond?

We came out on that occasion with our pins for the first time in public and many were the questions propounded by the fair owners of sparkling eyes and sweet smiles as to the meaning and intent of said pins. This also is a part of my excuse for not writing sooner.

WYLLYS C. RANSOM, MICHIGAN, TO ROBERT V. MOORE, MIAMI.

ANN ARBOR, June 26, 1847.

Nearly a month since I directed a communication to your chapter making several inquiries; and as it has not been answered with the promptness which we think should characterize the Presiding Chapter, we very naturally conclude that our former epistle miscarried or else your answer met a similar fate. We have for a long time felt something of a solici-

tude about the Bloomington Chapter. We have not heard from them since last February, and as they were not represented in convention, we have thought that they might have foundered and gone to the bottom. If you can give us any information about the matter it will be thankfully received. Nothing new has transpired since the last month.

We, however, initiated another Soph in our last meeting, who is considered the best scholar in that class. His name is Lyman Cochran; you will add this to our list. This swells our number in attendance to eighteen, and makes Theta the largest child of the whole brood. Thus do we push our way along. We have taken five Freshmen from the very lap of the faculty. We know that our convention has had a good effect; we can feel it in every limb, see it in every motion, and we unite in a song of praise to the Alpha for her untiring efforts in bringing that convention to its final consummation. We are satisfied that, had you not taken the lead in the matter, no convention would have been held.

Brethren of the A., you now have a double responsibility resting upon your shoulders; you must rouse up the sleeping lions and push the chapters in their correspondence. Keep our big heart thumping to the time of "Yankee Doodle," and then, when 1848 shall come around, we will throw a hundred good souled, brass booted, invulnerable Greeks into the streets of Hudson. We hope that that convention will be big with interest and big with members. In our correspondence let us continually refer to that convention. Let us get up one great feeling in favor of its full consummation and then we shall cap the climax of our success. We are in as fine condition as could be; members all active and at work.

I received a communication the other day from Kappa of the East. They are doing finely, numbering at present seven members and two more pledged. I believe that we have now got a place in the East where we shall hold our own, and whence will be taken the scion for many an Eastern Branch.

The Zeta at Greencastle, is also in a fine condition. We received a letter from her the day before yesterday.

The Kappa says, if we strike now there is a first rate opening now in Burlington. Will you give your consent? Write immediately, as this must be attended to immediately. Give me a

complete list of your members. From the Delta Chapter we have as yet heard nothing since the convention. Our Recorders are all a little behind the times. I hope that you will strictly enjoin the obeying the Constitution in regard to correspondence, and also attend to the rule yourself. Give our respects to all the Alphas of the Betas and say that we are still "E pluribus unum," i. e., one among 'em. The A Δ Φ is astonishing the natives here by its ferocious antics. It growls, waves its tail and shows its teeth, and just as we think it is about to spring, it slinks off.

R. VANCE MOORE, MIAMI, TO WYLLYS C. RANSOM, MICHIGAN.

OXFORD, O., July 16, 1847.

Your welcome epistles of May 28th and June 26th were duly received and you are doubtless beginning to think that "Uncle Sam's" subordinates have been recreant to their trust. I must however exonerate them from the charge and myself shoulder the responsibility. In your first letter you desired us to forward you the action of the different chapters upon the minutes of the "special convention" together with the names of the Recorders. Hoping soon to obtain from the proper sources the desired information I delayed answering in order that I might forward it. In this hope I have, however, been disappointed having heard from but three chapters, Hudson, Jefferson and your own. We find however that we have unconsciously done injustice to the Crawfordsville Chapter in enumerating those who have not performed their duty in regard to correspondence. We have received from their Recorder V. D. Collins the minutes of the Special Convention together with a statement of their condition and prospects. The four chapters from whom we have heard together with our own have adopted the minutes of the Convention.

You ask in your last letter permission to found a Chapter at Burlington, Vermont. We are entirely ignorant of the character of this institution, and it is with some hesitancy that we act upon the matter. Trusting however in the discretion of our sister chapters we will give our consent, and I am today writing the different Chapters, to ascertain their wish upon this subject, and so soon as the consent of a sufficient number is obtained I will inform you of the fact.

The policy of our chapter has always been, to act with the greatest caution, both in the selection of individual members and the formation of new chapters. We think it far better to lose some good men, than to elect some who may afterward *dis-honor us in any manner*, and far better to lose some eligible situations than to establish chapters in institutions where there are not a sufficient number of the right kind to *honorably* sustain them. Out of one hundred and forty students in attendance at our University we have never had more than eight or ten in our chapter at one time. This is the only way to sustain the honor of our order, and to place it upon that high literary basis which every true *Beta* desires to see it occupy.

You ask us what has become of the Bloomington Chapter? We have not heard a word from it since March last, when we received from them a most encouraging letter, inquiring the time and place for holding the Special Convention, stating that they had appointed their delegates. We answered their letter immediately giving them the desired information and expected confidently that they would have been at the Convention. What could have become of them I cannot conjecture.

Our brethren of the "Crescent" have been making sad havoc lately. We had reduced them to such straits (no less than five of the resident members of our chapter having previously had propositions from the Alphas) that they were compelled to make a final effort to "keep seed alive on the earth," they consequently let down their net, and made a heavy drag. We have a higher opinion of them than ever before, they certainly are a *charitable* association. We now have every advantage and vigilance alone is necessary to keep it.

FROM VARNUM D. COLLINS, WABASH, TO WYLLYS C. RANSOM,
MICHIGAN.

CRAWFORDSVILLE, July 22, 1847.

Your letter dated May 29th was duly received, but, being unwell and absent from college, and likewise waiting for our seal, which was expected from Cincinnati, I have thus long delayed answering.

It is with pleasure that we hear of your prosperity, both as

regards growth and the cultivation of that friendship and mutual esteem which results from the close union of kindred spirits.

It is a pleasant reflection and affords a grateful satisfaction to realize that the members of our own small chapter are not all who are engaged in forwarding the objects of our association; that in other colleges, scattered over our country, there are those of kindred feeling and mutual sympathies who are earnestly endeavoring to establish its character, and who desire, not only to be pleased, but benefited by the advantages of the Beta brotherhood.

In the midst of our continued prosperity as a chapter, we suffer much from those who, despairing of becoming members, embrace every means and opportunity of defaming our character and talents. We feel that we have sacrificed much by declaring our identity as a branch of a secret association. The bitter fruits of envy are fast growing up, and even the sacredness of individual character is not so much as respected. Yet we feel that though envy and injustice may have excited bitter jealousies at home, we are not entirely stripped of friends—that the stranger, actuated by friendship and esteem, is ever willing to extend the hand which old acquaintance denies, since he only is capable and willing to judge of the integrity of our motives, and the correctness of our means.

We feel exceedingly sorry that such is the feeling with regard to ourselves. The uninitiated look upon us as a kind of literary aristocracy, claiming for ourselves the best and truest of Wabash. To the latter, and I had almost said to the former charge, we plead guilty. We have to contend with an unprincipled rival, which observes neither propriety nor truth in establishing itself and lowering our chapter, by defaming its individual members, but which we consign to its own appropriate sphere beneath the withering glance of honest scorn.

I am happy to state that from the personal standing of our members, who are, indeed, composed of those who impart good character to our college, we have received the approbation and the hearty "God speed" of the faculty.

While our chapter has done some injury by causing hard feeling and envy, it is, at the same time, stimulating us to honor-

able emulation, and to that rank which should characterize those who aspire to carry out the principles of Beta Theta Pi.

We strive to make our association the instrument of social enjoyment, of friendly feeling—in short, to make it what it professes to be, beneficial.

May the whole association realize that their union with each, whether by correspondence or actual acquaintance, proceeds, not from base interest, but from the virtuous sympathy of mutual esteem.

We were established just one year ago from to-day, and on this evening we celebrate the first anniversary of our chapter, by two orations and a regular Beta supper.

We have not as yet received the address in behalf of the "special convention," which I presume is forthcoming. The following is a list of our members.

John Coburn, A. B. (founder), Indianapolis, Ind.; John S. Hougham, A. B., Danville, Ind.; N. P. Coltrin, A. B., Terre Haute, Ind.; John L. Campbell, Senior, Salem, Ind.; J. Wells Taylor, Senior, Starky, N. Y.; Jesse L. Holman, Junior, Aurora, Ind.; Varnum D. Collins, Sophomore, Chillicothe, Ohio; George Bowman, Junior, Delphi, Ind.; William K. Houston, Junior, N. Winchester, Ind.; Stephen O. Taber, Junior, (Recorder), Logansport, Ind.; William A. McCorkle, Sophomore, Troy, Ohio; N. S. Dickey, Senior, N. Washington, Ind.; R. S. Ragan, Senior, N. Winchester, Ind.

ORLANDO CLARK, INDIANA, TO R. VANCE MOORE, MIAMI.

BLOOMINGTON, IND., July 22, 1847.

We have before us a communication of the 15th inst. in which you give our chapter something of drubbing for not coming up to her duty in the Beta Theta Pi ranks. We have, indeed, to acknowledge unjustifiable negligence on our part; nevertheless there are palliating circumstances in the case. As to the convention; our delegation all leaving here on the first of April did not receive the letter of friend Osborn until their return, which was with some the second week of May, so that they could not well attend. We had no definite understanding as to the exact time of meeting, but thought it to be the first of May, and consequently one of our delegates was at the appointed place

some two or three days of the first of May. So, you see, we had no representative in the convention. Indeed it would have been agreeable to confer with the many "kindred spirits" there assembled in so noble a cause as ours. For my own part, I had promised myself the enjoyment of a "feast of reason and a flow of soul" upon the occasion, but such were the circumstances that I could not have the promised pleasure.

Our chapter expected to receive a copy of the minutes of the convention immediately after its occurrence, and therefore delayed correspondence until they should know what changes were made, and what new measures were adopted for the regulation of our association. As yet we have not received them, but incidentally understand that there has been a change made as to our correspondence, and also in the names of all the chapters except the Alpha.

Although we have been, as it were, to ourselves, yet the bonds of "——and——" bind us closely together, creating a cordiality of feeling which prompts us to give the hand of mutual assistance. The cheering looks of the Etas, as we pass them, kindle generous feelings among all. Confiding hearts feel that friendship is indeed more than a name.

The existence of our chapter is not known here, and we intend keeping it secret, as the president of the University is warmly opposed to secret associations. We hold our meetings semi-monthly.

The number of our chapter, now present, is ten. I am not sure that you have them all, and will therefore give them.

DAVIS BATTERTON, Pres't, Sen.,	Bloomington, Ind.
JOHN O. BULLOCK, Sen.,	Louisville, Ky.
THEOPHILUS PARVIN, Sen.,	Abington, Pa.
R. M. OVERSTREET, Jun.,	Franklin, Ind.
ORLANDO CLARK, Rec.,	Vernon, Ind.
P. S. CORNELIUS, Soph.,	Lawrenceburgh, Ind.
C. McLEAN, Soph.,	Madison, Ind.
J. H. McMURTRIE, Soph.,	Rockville, Ind.
M. C. GADBERRY, Fresh.,	Benton, Miss.
DAVID HOLLAND, Irreg.,	Henry County, Ind.

We regret to lose our Seniors who are to leave us shortly,

and *deeply*, because the Beta Theta Pi material is scarce, and we have no new members in contemplation.

The Eta's have no objections to the establishment of a chapter at Burlington, Vermont.

From the resignation of Mr. Bullock, I shall now attend to the business of Recorder, and communications will properly come to me.

From the present prospects of Hanover College, would it not be well to establish a chapter there? I think there are four there worthy of badges of the Beta Theta Pi.

LEONARD A. HENDRICK, WILLIAMS, TO R. VANCE MOORE, MIAMI.

WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS., July 31, 1847.

We received your communication some four days since, and with pleasure attempt an answer—glad to know there are those with whom we can interchange kindred thoughts and feelings—real, genuine *Betas*—to whom “hills and vales no separation are.” And here, ever success to our good and glorious Brotherhood! Tho’ ourselves, but a mere *baby* yet,—a “child in swaddling clothes”—we love our elder Brothers and Sisters, and hope ever to merit love from them.

It seems, then, you have been apprised of our birth—“a star in the East,” as Brother Ransom, of the Michigan Univ., with kind eulogy, sees fit to call us. And so we hope it may prove, only that it may not be a transitory splendor; but,

“Shine brighter and brighter;
Like an eagle, soar higher and higher.”

Well, there’s a touch of egotism for you—but no matter.

The particulars of our formation, I don’t know as it is necessary for me to give here, as I suppose you already know pretty much what they are. Of the difficulties attending branching *any additional* “Secret Societies,” in any of our eastern Colleges, I see you have some conception. This much, however, I will say, that I think your western and southern Colleges are apt to have somewhat erroneous ideas of the position occupied by most secret societies among us—their *real standing*. In your letter, you seem to regard them *numerically*; and furthermore, to look upon each as an association similar to our own, when, in most cases, it is

far different. How it may be in other colleges, I know not. I speak only of this. Here we have *three* secret societies, Sigma Phi, Chi Psi, and Kappa Alpha. But *such* societies!—mere shams, nonentities—comprising mostly, only the so-called ‘*bo’hoys*’ of college. The only thing necessary to insure an election in either being a nice coat, a shining beaver, a finely adjusted cravat, with, peradventure, a pretty turn to the heel of one’s boot.

The scrambling and tussling for new members, when a new class comes on, you can easily conceive. Sometimes, to be sure, they may chance upon fine, good fellows; generally, however, upon such only as subsequently prove themselves mere offscourings, mere dregs of college. In such a state of things, we think you can imagine the obstacles to be encountered in introducing a new society—I mean a *good* society—a Beta Theta Pi. Men there were, but then, so deeply rooted had become their prejudices against *all secret societies*, that it seemed a Sisyphean task to think of removing them. And besides, there was a large anti-secret society—“Social Fraternity”⁹—arrayed against us, embracing in its list the talent and influence of college—some of its men, no doubt, anti-secret from *principle*. But we went *slowly*; acted upon what, it seems, would have been your advice, using great caution as to whom we *honored* with an election. All considerations of wealth we laid aside, and looking beneath the pretty external coverings, sought to *know the man*. Scholarship we have endeavored as far as could be to make our criterion, but with it combined a good and noble heart—“the elements so mixed, that nature might stand up and say to all the world, *this is a man*.”

But really I am getting into a very boasting strain. Our list is as follows:

ALONZO P. CARPENTER, Soph.,
L. A. HENDRICK, Soph.,
A. P. BEALS, Soph.,
JOHN BASCOM, Soph.,

Lower Waterford, Vt.
Wolcott, N. Y.
Plainfield, Mass.
Ludlowville, N. Y.

9. The social fraternity referred to was an anti-secret society which afterwards became a prominent member of the present non-secret Delta Upsilon, the social fraternity at Williams being the oldest constituent member and being now considered by Delta Upsilon as its parent chapter.

J. S. SANDERSON, Fresh.,
R. W. SMITH, Fresh.,
JOHN B. TAYLOR, Fresh.,
DAVID HINE, JR., Fresh.,

Petersham, Mass.
Hanoverton, Ohio.
West Springfield, Mass.
Canfield, Ohio.

Well, here we are, and, take my word for it, present company excepted, "spirits choice and rare." In the Soph., class, *two honors*, if not three, are spoken for. In the Fresh., we have the, more than probable, valedictorian, as things are now, and the others evincing a determination to be but little behind in the chase. Furthermore, *two* of our members are to make their appearance upon the stage the evening previous to commencement,—*"Rhetorical Exhibitors."* You will notice we have none from the two high classes. And first bear in mind, in two weeks and a half we are all of us to take a stride ahead one year. As to the present Seniors, they will then have graduated before we "swing out;" tho' I'll say we expect to swing out in concert, if our badges shall have come by that time. As to the class that will be Seniors then, it's rather a scanty class; so, on the whole, we have thought it best to remain as we are, as in a year we shall be, some of us, Seniors ourselves. And I came near forgetting that two more will be added to us next summer: Van Vecter, of the present Fresh. class, a splendid scholar, and Fritz Rhi, ex-President of the Soph. class.

And now I hope you will excuse our vanity of self. We love not boasting, and would not, did we not think our *peculiarly bright prospects* permit it. We look upon the foundation we have laid, as broad, deep, immovable. 'Tis here we hope to rear a superstructure, firm, high, noble, mighty in its strength, the "wonder of the gazing multitudes"—a place where *pilgrim Betas* ever may find a welcome—ever find a home.

P. S.—In your future communications, as Rec., you will please address Alonzo P. Carpenter, as he is to be our next Rec. Correspondence of a private nature, I should be glad (and I know others would) to enter into at any time. In your next, can you give us a list of your old members, also Princeton and Harvard, as their list is to be transferred to yours. Some of those at Harvard, I presume, some of us may be acquainted with.

CHAPTER V.

FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WILLIAMS CHAPTER TO THE CONVENTION OF 1848.

In reading the series of letters comprised within this chapter, care must be taken to remember that the names of the chapters were changed at the convention of 1847, and that as referred to in this chapter, they are as follows:

Alpha, Miami; Beta, Western Reserve; Gamma, Transylvania; Delta, Jefferson; Epsilon, Princeton; Zeta, Indiana Asbury; Eta, Indiana; Theta, Michigan; Iota, Wabash and Kappa, Williams.

The feebleness of the Presiding Chapter System is emphasized in a number of these letters. For instance, there is to be noted the ineffective inquiries made by one chapter to another concerning the condition of the Princeton and Transylvania Chapters, the failure to organize the proposed chapters at Dickinson and the University of Alabama, and the general lack of information concerning the condition and progress of the chapters. It would have seemed that the genius of American youth, even at that time, would have developed some form of executive authority, but it didn't and the fraternity suffered in consequence. Any kind of a periodical containing news of the chapters and their doings would have sufficed to weld the fraternity together, but instead of attempting a reasonable project of this kind, note how the only kind of periodical in the mind of the members was one to be filled with essays and poems and literary productions. It was not until the development of the craze for amateur journalism which arose in 1865 that the idea of a newspaper which should be of some real value as a means of communication began to develop within the minds of the fraternity workers. If it had been thought of at this time, the development of the fraternity would have been more sure, more safe, and more sane.

In this chapter, there is described the enforced suicide of the Wabash chapter, the men giving up their organization as a fra-

ternity rather than do a serious injury to the college, followed by the attempted secret reorganization of a portion of the members into a subrosa chapter. This attempt did not succeed as the members of the latter were unable to secure new recruits without disclosing their existence. The Michigan chapter also became a victim of antifraternity legislation and made a boyish attempt to avoid its consequences first by having the members sign the pledge presented to them before they joined the chapter, and second by asserting that the fraternity not being confined to the colleges, the college authorities were thus without jurisdiction.

Another incident mentioned in these letters is the "Snow rebellion" at Miami. The incident was brief, but the consequences were numerous and important. The two fraternities at Miami, namely Alpha Delta Phi and Beta Theta Pi, were reduced to such small numbers that they temporarily suspended operations and three of the Betas going to Centre College in Kentucky founded a chapter there while the next year the absence of the college secret society in active operation resulted in the organization of a new one, Phi Delta Theta, the second fraternity to be founded at Miami.

WYLLYS C. RANSOM, MICHIGAN, TO R. VANCE MOORE, MIAMI.

THETA CHAPTER, BETA THETA PI,

ANN ARBOR, MICH., Sept. 28, 1847.

Again under the shade of my own vine and fig tree, I commence an epistle to my respected friend of the Alpha. The time, too, has come when the constitution requires me to make my returns to the presiding chapter. Since I wrote to you we have initiated two members, Lyman Cochrane, a Junior, and Orlando Barnes, a Sophomore. You are probably aware that we are existing against law, and that all the members of the university are pledged not to join any secret association. The last class were so pledged, but thanks to our guardian spirit we got five of them and as good fellows, too, as ever wore the sparkling badge of the Beta Theta Pi. They did not break their pledge, but took the pledge not to reveal anything previous to signing

the constitution—until which, you are well aware, they do not become members. Our prospects for the future are somewhat obscured by the dark clouds of doubt, but we hope and trust that a favorable breeze will soon dissipate them, and leave our path as bright as the morning. Our course here has ever been a pleasant one. We have endeavored to live closely to the constitution, to secure the great and grand objects of the association. Friendship stands by shedding its golden influence around our pathway, while fidelity is the watchword that leads us on in the most beautiful and perfect confidence in one another. They are indeed mistaken, who say that our organization is founded on clanship, for our object is too holy, too good to be made subservient to any principle that is not of the best and most lofty character. Among the mass of students we stand in a most important place. Their eyes are turned upon us; our every action is watched, and by them they can judge of the character of our members.

It affords me pleasure to say that our chapter is, and ever has been, the most popular with the neutrals; that their influence is an important one, no one can doubt; for though they are not sufficiently versed in the good qualities to work upon the top of the building, still they can admire its beautiful proportions, and gaze upon it with delight, or praise the artists who reared the fabric.

We are encouraged by the flattering results of the special convention. We can see that our pulse is now beating to the right time, and although we do not hear as often from the "warm heart" as we should, yet we hope that she is inclined to beat on, and keep the whole body in a healthy state. Brother Moore, just put our chapter in mind of the article on seals. I think that this should be enforced; for my part, when I get a letter from a chapter I want to see *its track* before I open it. I have been keeping up a brisk correspondence with the Indiana chapters; will you please to follow suit? They are doing well, aye first rate; but complain bitterly of the neglect of the Alpha; and while you are about the correspondence, do not forget Theta, of the Peninsula, and Kappa, of the Green Mountains.

Below you will find a list of our members now present. How come on our brethren of the Crescent and Dog Star? Their

moon here is eclipsed, and it would puzzle an eminent astronomer to predict its duration. But now for the list.

GEO. L. BECKER, A. B., President.

JAMES M. WALKER, A. B., Att'y at Law.

DAVID M. COOPER,¹ Sen., Vice-President.

SIDNEY D. MILLER, Sen.

WYLLYS C. RANSOM, Sen., Recorder.

HORATIO N. SHAW,¹ Sen.

THOS. BLACMAR, Jun.

CHAS. BECKWITH, Jun.

LYMAN COCHRANE, Jun.

BARZILLAI GRAY, Jun.

ORLANDO BARNES, Soph.

SAMUEL HARPER, Soph.

WILLIAM MOORE, Soph.

JOHN McMATH, Soph.

HENRY POWERS, Soph.

We shall have some Freshmen next term. Remember us to the brethren of the Alpha ; and write immediately.

STEPHEN C. TABER, WABASH, TO R. VANCE MOORE, MIAMI.

CRAWFORDSVILLE, IND., October 13, 1847.

Having learned through a communication from Ann Arbor, that you are the present Recorder of your chapter, I agreeably to the constitution, under whose benign influence we were united, inform the *mother* that her "*daughter Iota*" is well and trusts soon to hear of her. We are strangers, Brother Moore, and, perhaps, it is not in accordance with the fastidious rules of etiquette, thus familiarly to address you, without previous acquaintance, but what have the ceremonies of society—where affectation and hypocrisy reign triumphant—to do with us, when our constitution—the glorious embodiment of such upright principles—bids us be otherwise, bids us be friends? It has been that which has touched the magic spring, and exposed to us the secret that kindred hearts and kindred feelings are separated

1. David M. Cooper and Horatio W. Shaw were expelled by mutual agreement on account of their religious prejudice against secret societies. Many years afterwards they were reinstated by the convention of 1898 at the request of Wyllys C. Ransom.

only by space; which, I sincerely hope, will one day be removed. Thus assured that the chord of——and——is everywhere vibrating, I assume my pen, to indulge, as it were, in a *little social tete-a-tete* on paper.

Our chapter is still progressing onward in pleasant peace, which has at length visited our devoted heads; but it has not always been thus. We have been compelled here to "*run the gauntlet*," as well as elsewhere. The storm of conflict has, however, at length blown over, and the "dark and diabolical machinations of Betaism are still left to prey upon the vitals of society." The opening of another college year has presented an entirely new aspect. Our most bitter opponents have put on a bland smile and a courteous demeanor, the better, perhaps, to lull the unwary to their destruction, but *unfortunately* they will find that we are "*initiated*." The depravity of their nature has been too fully developed for us ever to be off our guard.

We have to contend with a secret society, termed the "Atalantian Literati," and also some would-be-worthies, who, stung to the quick, in the disappointment of their aspirations, now use their *giant* influence against us; but it has been as Horace says—*parturiunt montes; nascetur ridiculus mus*. Against the Atalantian Society the faculty has denounced expulsion, or dissolution; but this will not destroy them;—proscribed, they will but feel an increased interest in each other, unite to better effect and thus defeat their own purpose. That society has had the extreme satisfaction to compose the sink of our institution, which doubtless, is very flattering to its self-complacency. It is this that discovers the grand secret of the great favor they possess with the majority in preference to ourselves. Because we exhibit a taste in the selection of members, which to them seems fastidious, we legally incur the weight of their displeasure, which we quite prefer to their friendship. They have therefore branded us with the epithet "*excelsior*," which they obtained from a letter that came into their possession through burglary, and it is our intention if possible, not to have the name misapplied. We have gained a complete victory, inasmuch as not one whom we have proposed for membership has ever entertained the slightest objection. Having thus disposed of the "*Sans Cullottes*," a new opponent still more terrible, we fear, is about to enter the arena; being no less than our faculty, *in propria personae*. A member

of it, who has shown himself on every occasion, our friend, privately informed us that he should lay a proposition before us, purporting that inasmuch as the existence of our chapter had occasioned such serious disturbances, compromising the dignity and tranquility of the institution, we should magnanimously dissolve. Such, he informed us, would be the substance of it, and added, furthermore that it was original with him, and not a proposition of the faculty. We doubt it not, yet it is easy to infer the state our affairs are in with regard to them. The proposition is delayed on account of the continued absence of our members. But let it come; our decision is formed, and by it we will abide. They shall not flatter us to our destruction, when they cannot gain their ends "*Vi et armis.*"

We increase in members but slowly; yet those to whom we entrust the prosperity of the vine will never let it lack sustenance: the space may be small, yet the soil is deep and fertile. A letter from Brother Wilson, of the Delta Chapter, says that their prospects are rather clouded, in consequence of an expected rupture with the faculty, in which he and his chapter have our best wishes,—as we can do no more. We doubt, not, in case it occurs they will terminate it alike honorably to themselves and their association.

At our last meeting, we initiated a member of the Sophomore Class, and have others in prospect. I will give you a catalogue of our members, viz:

JOHN COBURN, ² A. B., (founder),	Indianapolis, Ind.
JOHN S. HOUGHAM, A. B.,	Danville, Ind.
REUBEN S. RAGAN, A. B.,	New Winchester, Ind.
N. P. COULTRIN, A. B.,	Terre Haute, Ind.
JOHN L. CAMPBELL, ² Sen.,	Salem, Ind.

2. John Coburn, the founder of the Wabash chapter, was for many years a prominent citizen of Indiana. He was a member of the legislature, a judge of the Common Pleas Court and afterwards of the Circuit Court, a member of Congress for several terms, a brigadier general in the Union Army in the war, and a lawyer of eminence in the state courts. In his elder days, he was a Justice of the Supreme Court of Montana. John L. Campbell was professor of physics and astronomy at Wabash College for more than forty years. He will probably be best remembered from the fact that he suggested the World's Fair at Philadelphia in 1876, called the Centennial Exposition, celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the independence of the United States.

JOHN W. TAYLOR, Sen.,	Starkey, N. Y.
N. S. DICKEY, Sen.,	New Washington, Ind.
JESSE L. HOLMAN, Jun., (Pres.),	Aurora, Ind.
GEORGE BOWMAN, Jun.,	Delphi, Ind.
WM. K. HOUSTON, Jun.,	New Washington, Ind.
STEPHEN C. TABER, Jun., (Rec.),	Logansport, Ind.
VARNUM D. COLLINS, Soph.,	Chillicothe, O.
WILLIAM A. MCCORKLE, Soph.,	Troy, O.
FRANCIS A. WILBUR, Soph.,	Laporte, Ind.

Thus you preceive fourteen as true fellows as ever trod the halls of our Alma Mater. But six are now present, and eight are all that are expected. I trust by future amends to repair my negligence in writing; and it seems, though, to be confined to more than myself, as we have received but two letters thus far since the opening of the Session.

Please direct your letters to Jesse L. Holman at this place. They can be written to me; but it is safer he should receive them, as there are others here bearing the same surname with myself, who might not discover their error till too late to be repaired.

It is whispered around, and I doubt it not, that a chapter of the Alpha Delta Phi is about to be established here, in opposition to us. It is to be founded by our enemies, and we should like to keep them in hot water, by letting them know that we are acquainted with their plans, etc., etc. Could you not send us a copy of their constitution, which was shown to V. D. Collins, at the convention?

ALONZO P. CARPENTER, WILLIAMS, TO WYLLYS C. RANSOM,
MICHIGAN.

WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS., October 14, 1847.

I have been waiting a long time to get into a "writing mood," but the fates are not propitious, and so I've concluded to set myself doggedly about it, and write anyhow. Your letter of September was duly received, and, doubtless, would have been answered long ago, but Brother Hendrick³ has

3. Hendrick referred to in this note, became a member of the junior society at Yale, which was a chapter of Alpha Delta Phi, but

left us and gone to Yale. We are sorry to lose him, but, as he wished to pursue his professional studies (law) in connection with the last year of his college course, he could not be persuaded to remain with us. He has or probably will soon write you.

We are finely prospered in all our undertakings. Betaism is bound to flourish, and the "Star of the East" shall *not* shine dimly in the brilliant galaxy of its sister lights. We, too, will let our light shine, and that, too, so that others may take knowledge of us that there is one "secret society" whereof the good is not evil.

In regard to Burlington, no chapter has been founded as yet, nor is it possible (unless through your instrumentality) at present. I passed through there on my way home, and, on inquiry, I learned that my friend did not take the stand as a scholar that I supposed he did, and, furthermore, was not respected as I should wish to have a brother Beta respected. I was exceedingly disappointed. But far be it from my mind to deal lightly with our noble pledge of — kai —, or sully our diamond's brilliancy by suffering those to kneel at its shrine who have not the hearts of true Betas to appreciate its benefits. Young is said to be a fine fellow, and if you could find means to accomplish the object through him, perhaps it would be advisable. If aught is done it must be done quickly. There is a project on

did not resign his membership in Beta Theta Pi. When the Williams chapter was revived in 1914 he was the only living member of the old chapter. He signed the petition. It was a matter of great regret to him that he was not able to be present at the installation.

Alonzo P. Carpenter, who wrote this letter of October 14th, 1847 and many other Beta letters, was for thirty years and more a justice of the Supreme Court of New Hampshire and was considered by many to be the leader of the bar of that state.

John Bascom, one of the members of that chapter, was a teacher of philosophy, of eminence. He was one of that group of deep thinkers who lived in New England about this time and who left a profound impress upon the intellectual life of the nation. He was the author of more than forty books on Political Economy, Psychology, Philosophy, Sociology, Theology and Ethics. He was professor at Williams College from 1856 to 1874 and from 1877 to his death in 1911. During the interim from 1874 to 1877 he was the president of the University of Wisconsin and planned the subsequent expansion of its activities. Robert W. Smith, another member of the chapter, was a brigadier general in the Civil war and an eminent lawyer of Chicago. Carpenter, Bascom and Smith were all together at the convention of 1881 in Chicago and took an active part in its proceedings. Smith was president of several of the fraternity conventions.

foot to unite the colleges at Burlington and Middlebury,⁴ at which latter place there is a branch of the Chi Psi, and also one other secret society, the name of which I forget, and, unless we could get one started before the union of the colleges shall be consummated, our chance will be rather poor.

A very intimate friend of mine has, this fall, entered Dartmouth College as freshman. His character I know—correspond with him regularly. He is a splendid fellow as well as scholar—decidedly the best mathematician I ever knew. Whether I should be able to start a branch there through him or not I am unable to say; time alone can show.⁵ His name is Jonathan Ross. So if you know any one in Dartmouth you can inquire respecting him. I am confident he will be one of the first in his class.

Another very intimate friend of mine has entered Amherst College as freshman. A first-rate fellow; not so good a scholar as Ross, but a better writer. At Amherst there are only two secret societies (the Alpha Delta Phi and Psi Upsilon), with some one hundred and fifty students. A fine opening I say, what say you? Perhaps it would not be well to make any demonstration that way at present. But I can very easily find out in reference to Amherst whether we can succeed there or not, and then will write you.

You ask if we have swung out. We have not, nor do we seem likely to swing soon. The badges are in a land "whereof tongue or pen speaketh not." We have received no communication from Western Reserve, if I recall it right, since about the middle of May. This is certainly not as it ought to be. The brothers are getting very much discouraged on that account. We cannot understand it all; what does it mean? Can you tell us? if so, do. You can hardly imagine the *mental torture* endured by me (poor fellow) going to the post office every day in expectation of badges and finding none, and then hearing from all the brothers successively the ejaculation, "badges out?" I assure

4. The project to unite the University of Vermont and Middlebury has been brought forward from time to time but has never been consummated.

5. Although this attempt to enter Dartmouth failed and Jonathan Ross never became a member of the fraternity, the attempt to establish a chapter there resulted in the initiation of Franklin Fairbanks, a student at Dartmouth, who was for many years president of the Fairbanks Company, the well-known manufacturer of scales at St. Johnsbury, Vermont.

you it is *perfectly excruciating*. Speaking of badges, you said something in a former letter about getting them made in New York. We should be very glad to do so, though I think we should hardly be able to get them as cheap as you mentioned, and as good as we get them. We shall get no more at Cincinnati, anyhow. Where does the Princeton chapter get theirs? And, speaking of Princeton, we have had no communication from that chapter at all. What is the reason? What is the condition of the chapter? Will you let us know all you know about it?

Write as soon as possible in reference to Burlington. I am anxious in regard to it. The brethren of the Kappa send love and greeting to the brethren of the Theta.

You may add to our catalogue the name of Charles H. Foote, a junior. We have not yet taken any from the freshman class—one pledged, though. The freshman is a very large, fine class. We shall pick some good fellows.

WYLLYS C. RANSOM, MICHIGAN, TO R. VANCE MOORE, MIAMI.

THETA CHAPTER, BETA THETA PI,
MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY, Oct. 20, 1847.

Some time since I wrote you a letter stating the condition of our chapter, its prospects, and other matters of importance, and at the same time asked that we might immediately hear from the Presiding Chapter of the Beta Theta Pi. Three weeks have now elapsed, and not a word do we hear. We do not feel disposed to complain but we think it most too bad that the "old lady" should so neglect her children, and run behind in the constitutional duty of monthly correspondence. Permit me in words of kindness to tell you of the Alpha, that you must be more prompt, or you will have the whole list of children, from the Beta down to Kappa, squalling in your ears. Since my Record-ership, which has been now nearly six months, I have received but one communication from the Alpha chapter, whereas, by the law passed at the Special Convention, we should have had at least four. With the other chapters I have had a regular monthly interchange of correspondence. As I said, I do not wish to complain; but we wish to remind the Alpha that she wears the crown, and we wish to learn *now and then* of the health of our good old mother. I fear that you have had some leak down your

way, for an Alpha Delta Phi very coolly informed me that we had buried three chapters. I as coolly asked him where he got his information, and he said that they received a letter from their chapter at Oxford, which told them about it, and also the names of the chapters closed. From this, it would seem that the minutes of the convention had in some manner leaked out. Secrecy of the deepest nature is now especially requisite to the welfare of the association; and I am sorry that the Alphas have got wind of the matter. Can you give us any information on the subject? It pains me to inform you, that at our last meeting we were brought to the necessity of expelling two of our members, and both of them members of the Senior Class. They, for some time, have felt opposed to the society on account of its being of a secret nature. They were both members of the church, and felt that they were doing wrong in remaining in the society. They also used their influence against us, with those whom we wished to initiate into the society, and consequently we were under the necessity of expelling them from the chapter. Horatio N. Shaw and David M. Cooper are their names, and you will please to erase their names from our list. A very fine class have just entered, and we have our eyes on several young men, and have already pledged one of them.

We are waging a most bitter war with the Chi Psi, a most miserable set of rowdies, who have established a chapter here. Not a struggle of words; but a struggle for members. We are yet in doubt as to how the contest will turn out. We hope, however, to give them a few. You are already aware that we have to contend against the faculty, as they have passed a law prohibiting all these secret associations. The Chi Psi, which I before mentioned, was founded by Spencer, whom you will remember to have been hung on the U. S. Brig Somers, for mutiny.⁶ The Alpha Delta Phi's are rather passive here. How is it with you? What success do you have with the new class? What are your prospects, and are our brethren zealous in the cause? There is one thing to which we would direct attention of the presiding

6. The execution of Spencer was one of the most regrettable incidents in the history of the United States Navy. The untimely death of this brilliant young man has caused his memory to be revered by the members of Chi Psi and in the early fifties made them resent with peculiar intensity the appellation of "Pirates" which was applied to them.

chapter, and that is the article relative to seals. Six months have now elapsed since the convention, and yet only our own and the Wabash Chapters have provided themselves with seals. The article of the constitution relative to seals should be as much in force as any others, and I like to see a letter under its own proper colors.

We hope that in all your correspondence you will ever keep it before the minds of our brethren, that on the first Thursday of September, 1848, a Beta convention is to be held, and that every Beta that can go or ride should be there. I will hold this chapter responsible for twenty delegates. We stump any chapter to beat us, if they can. Please add to your list of our chapter the name of Lyman Cochrane, if you have not already.

Answer this immediately, and tell us all the news. The Theta sends greeting to the members of the Alpha! but the College bell rings and I must close.

ROBERT VANCE MOORE, AT MIAMI, TO WYLLYS C. RANSOM,
MICHIGAN.

OXFORD, O., October 30, 1847.

It is with some "shame and confusion of face," that I proceed to the performance of a too long neglected duty. As you are well aware our officers are elected semi-annually. And *my* stewardship closed last July, Edmund H. Munger was elected in my place, but soon after from unavoidable circumstances was called home, and has only returned last evening. Your last was brought me while I was watching with a sick Beta brother, and I have this morning stolen an hour from his chamber to drop you a hasty answer. Our chapter though numbering but six members is in as prosperous condition as we could reasonably hope from the number and character of the students in college. Our list now is as follows:

Isaiah Little, Senior, President; Samuel S. Laws,⁷ Senior; Edmund H. Munger, Senior, Rec.; R. Vance Moore, Senior; James Warwick, Junior; John W. Noble,⁷ Soph.

7. Samuel S. Laws became a very eminent divine in the Presbyterian Church. He was for many years president of Westminster College in Missouri and for many more President of the University of Missouri, and he was the inventor of the stock ticker, the device by which quotations on the stock exchange are transmitted to customers at a distance. John W. Noble became one of the leading lawyers in St. Louis, rose to be a brigadier general in the Union Army during the war, and was secretary of the Interior from 1889 to 1893.

Our brethren of the crescent (Alpha Delta Phi) never before presented so ragged a front. They remind us forcibly of starv' Ireland where small potatoes are thankfully received. Thre of our present members had propositions for membership from the Alphas before they joined the Betas while they have not one to whom we have proposed. Driven to despair they have "gone out into the highways and hedges and called in the lame, the halt and the blind to partake of their feast." Vigilance alone on our part is necessary to maintain the advantage we have gained.

We had a most cheering time at our last anniversary. About thirty of our graduated members were with us. We had an address from Wm. Shotwell, Esq., which is now in press and as soon as received we will forward you a copy. It was a pleasing sight to see the patriarchs of our household who had come forth early bearing the good seed, perchance weeping, now returned to gather the golden sheaves of an abundant harvest.

I am sorry to inform you that we shall have to lose one of our most prominent members. Isaiah Little has for some time had very bad health and has recently been attacked with hemorrhage of the lungs. Though he is now recovering, his physician tells him he must give up all idea of continuing his course. Nothing could afford us more sorrow as he is a man of the first talent and one who would have done us the highest honor at our commencement. But I must draw this scrawl to a close as I have only escaped from Little's room for a short time to perform this duty.

WM. A. RANKIN, JEFFERSON, TO R. VANCE MOORE, MIAMI.

DELTA CHAPTER, JEFFERSON COLLEGE,
CANONSBURGH, PA., NOV. 1, 1847.

An old and respectable member of our chapter of the Beta Theta Pi requests permission to found a branch of our order at Tuscaloosa, the capital of Alabama, and to be immediately invested with all constitutional power. The institution beneath whose shade this ward of ours is to be cherished, and amid whose sons our standard will be unfurled, is styled the University of Alabama. The picture of its aspect and prospects, as presented by Latham, is indeed flattering, and such a one as should cause us to grant his request without any hesitation, even

though we did not rely implicitly upon his judgment. The students number one hundred and seventy or eighty; the faculty composed of the highest ornaments of the South; the institution endowed with a capital of \$300,000, and many among the students eminently worthy of our friendship, love, and sympathy. From these representations, and believing it to be our duty as well as the object of Beta Theta Pi, to open wide her wings and draw beneath her benign influence the choicest of the land, in order that the seeds of friendship and of her sister social feelings, planted in the heart by the Almighty Creator, may bloom and blossom and diffuse her balms and sweet scents through kindred hearts, the Jefferson chapter cheerfully yields her consent.

Here it may not be improper to remark, that we owe an apology for the method pursued in the present instance. It is, they tell me, part and parcel of our constitution, when a request like this of Mr. Latham's is presented to any chapter, for said chapter to forward the request to the presiding branch, and ask permission of it, which is to be obtained by the consent of two-thirds of the chapters. This we have not done, and hence may appear to you arbitrary, dictatorial and every other character that is foreign to our wishes. But let me assure you, friend Moore, not another chapter in the order can boast *so modestly* of our own *peculiar modesty* and *unobtrusiveness* as our own. Therefore, in justice to ourselves, in respect for the order in general and the Oxford branch in special, in our veneration for the constitution, we feel ourselves bound to urge in our defense—the strong wish of Latham for haste, and our belief that we could in a much shorter period learn the decision of all the requisite chapters by the present than by the constitutional course.

And now, Brother Moore, we would request of your chapter an answer as soon as it is possibly convenient.

ALONZO P. CARPENTER, WILLIAMS, TO WYLLYS C. RANSOM,
MICHIGAN.

WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS., November 13, 1847.

I have today received a letter from Brother Hendrick which contained "a few of the pleasantest words that e'er were writ on paper." He, as you know, is now in Yale College and has become

acquainted with a firm whose whole business almost is making badges for the different Secret Societies. It makes the A Δ Φ, Ψ Y, Δ K E, K A, Π K Δ, Σ Φ, X Φ, K K K, Δ Φ, and a host of others. I have long been acquainted with the firm by reputation. He will make our badges on decidedly reasonable terms. He will make the die for \$10 or \$12 and the badges for \$5 or \$6 and you may depend upon it everything will be done up in just the *brownest* style imaginable. And if we desire it the whole matter will be kept perfectly secret. As a few of the advantages of getting them here in preference to New York I mention—1st. We know them to be honest upright men. 2. We shall not be Jewed as to the quality of the gold employed. It will be just such as we order so to the enamel. They will be eminently able to do this from their extensive business. 3. They are old and experienced hands at the *craft* and will therefore be more likely to suit us. 4. Brother Hendrick will be there for three or four years in his course and getting his profession and I myself shall superintend the making of the die and first lot of badges.

Today is Saturday and Monday I start for New Haven for that purpose. Shall see the men and make necessary arrangements. Our chapter from our knowledge of the firm think that we at any rate had better get ours there. Depend upon it they will be done *right*—there is no *mistake*. If you conclude to get yours with us, as I doubt not you will, you can explain the manner in which you wish to have the gold chain attached and it shall be done *right*. Send on immediately the names of those who take badges and explain as fully as possible how you want the badges (we have an old one that they can copy from in part) and I pledge a Beta's faith that everything shall be done to suit and your funds handled with economy. We can get our badges in about four weeks after we set them to work.

WYLLYS C. RANSOM, MICHIGAN, TO EDMUND H. MUNGER,
MIAMI.

ANN ARBOR, MICH., November 19, 1847.

I received Brother Moore's communication in due season, and hasten to reply, as I believe it to be the duty of every Recorder to be punctual in his obligations to the Beta. I

was much grieved to hear that Brother Little was so indisposed. Last winter we lost a member, and one of the brightest stars of our constellation. He was considered the best scholar, as well as writer, in the institution. But consumption came and he melted before the touch of death, and last spring we consigned to the grave all that remained of our dear Brother Tiffany. It was a terrible blow for us. But we cannot always expect to be free from trouble, and death will sever any bond formed by human skill.

Our chapter is as flourishing as ever, and the prospect before us is indeed a bright one. We have initiated one from the Fresh. Class, and shall bring in two more at the next meeting. So much for the opposition by the Faculty. They will have to legalize us I think. We are the favorite society of the Faculty, or at least they think ours by far the best. This shows that in one respect at least they are not quite fools.

I see by Brother Moore's last list he has omitted the name of Corwin. Is he not a Beta? His name was on a former list. One more question also: what has been done with the books of our suspended chapters, especially those of the Harvard? I am by no means in favor of having our documents all around the country. If they have not been seen to, they should be at once.

We received a petition from the Delta the other day, praying for our leave to establish a chapter at Alabama University, which we granted. I hope you will not forget to send me a copy of your Anniversary Oration when it is out. You must stir up our people on the subject of the next convention. Do you hear anything from Princeton, or Transylvania? I am somewhat afraid that those chapters will never again raise their drooping heads, but it is my sincere hope that they will.

I should like to see chapters established in the college of Illinois⁸ if it could be done. I wish some way could be perfected by which we could make more progress in establishing branches of the society. How come on the brethren of the Dog Star and Moon? They have been making a tremendous attack upon the "dogans," and have carried every point.

Our President is a great reformer, and thinks to do wonderful things. But Theta is enough for him. Answer soon.

8. This seems to have been the institution at Springfield referred to in a number of other letters.

SIDNEY D. MILLER, MICHIGAN, TO EDMUND H. MUNGER, MIAMI.

ANN ARBOR, MICH., November 24, 1847.

In accordance with our noble constitution I proceed to the performance of my duty as stated therein, namely, to give you an account of our condition and prospects.

With regard to the first, let me comprehend all that could be said in one question. Did you ever know the *Theta* (as we *are*) or good old *Lambda* (as we *were*) to own that she was in a bad condition even if she knew it herself? We have always considered it far the best to "keep perfectly cool" if we got into any difficulty and work mightily to get ourselves out of it again and not grumble our energies away and complain to our sister chapters of our great and severe encounters with our many and mighty enemies. We have not considered this, I say, to be profitable to ourselves or to our sister chapters, and therefore have not followed this course, so that you have seldom had to sympathize with us in misfortune. Yet, we have had trials, and they were not small, but now we are truly "right and tight," and if we may judge, our prospects wear no stormy aspect, and for my part, altho' I may be short-sighted, I cannot see a cloud which can efface our prosperity in the future.

Our chapter has always been "right side up, with care," as we have felt the responsibility under which we were as partners in our great association, and the value of our trust has told us to transport carefully what had been committed to our care. We have not one in our chapter who is not "life and soul" in our enterprise, and we now desire only those who can work *heartily* in our cause.

Probably Brother Ransom has informed our brethren of the Alpha of the *expulsion* of two of our members and you may desire some explanation of the matter. These persons are men of good mind, talent and principle, and our chapter would never have taken this course except in cases of *extreme necessity*. I said they were *good men*, and never will I utter one word against them. They were both expelled at their own wish, not because they did not consider the society of a good character and noble objects, not because they did not like, aye, love their brethren, but because they were opposed to the *general principle of secrecy*;

they took no interest in it, and as expulsion was their only means of severing their connection with us, they asked and it was granted. They are men in whose hands I would trust my life and, I think would as soon have their tongues slit as lisp one word of our secrets. I trust you will justify us in our act. Our members and officers are as follows:

Seniors: W. C. Ransom, President; S. D. Miller, Recorder.

Juniors: C. Beckwith, T. S. Blackmar, B. Gray, L. Cochrane.

Sophomores: O. Barnes, J. W. McMath, W. A. Moore, H. H. Powers, S. Harper.

Freshmen: E. Hewitt, O. H. Seymour, A. J. Poppleton.

Recollect that the law *requires* a *monthly* interchange of feeling.

ALONZO P. CARPENTER, WILLIAMS, TO R. VANCE MOORE, MIAMI.

WILLINGTON, CONN., Nov. 29th, 1847.

Your very welcome epistle was received in due time, and should have been answered long ere this, had—but I won't give any excuse, for I've a constitutional hatred of all apologetic prefaces. But though I don't give it, I've got one, and a good one, too.

Perhaps you don't know that we, in connection with the Theta Chapter, have made new arrangements in reference to badges, and shall get them at New Haven, Conn., hereafter, instead of Cincinnati. We have slightly altered the form, the new one being made a little smaller, with slightly oval face and curved sides and gorded corners. But of course the design upon the front of the pin remains the same. I have a sample by me. It is a decidedly superior article to the old one, both in regard to the material and finish. We have as yet only procured one, as a sample. The die costs us \$10 or \$12; and the first twenty or twenty-five badges \$6 each, if we take them all at a time. After that they will be only \$5 or \$5.50. The old badges are worth (as old gold) about two dollars, probably. So that if you should care to make the change, it would be done at a small sacrifice. The more we order at one time the cheaper they will come. So I have written to say that if there are any without badges, or wish to change, they can do it. I expect we shall order the badges in

about four weeks from this date. You may depend upon a prime article; and I pledge a Beta's faith that you will not regret the change. If you conclude to do so, of course you will see the necessity of writing immediately.

Our prospects are bright and still brightening. We have taken the best scholar of the freshman class out of the very clutches, as it were, of the Sigma Phi and Kappa Alphas. Indeed, the former supposed they had fairly secured him for nearly a week after he had joined us. We have not yet elected a single individual whom we have failed to initiate. I give below a catalogue in full:⁹

JOHN BASCOM, Jun.,	Ludlowville, N. Y.
ALDEN P. BEALS, Jun.,	Plainfield, Mass.
A. P. CARPENTER, Jun.,	Lower Waterford, Vt.
CHAS. H. FOOTE, Jun.,	Pittsford, N. Y.
L. A. HENDRICK, Jun.,	Wolcott, N. Y.
DAVID HINE, JR., Soph.,	Canfield, O.
JOEL SANDERSON, Soph.,	Benardston, Mass.
ROBT. W. SMITH, Soph.,	Hanoverton, O.
JOHN B. TAYLOR, Soph.,	West Springfield, Mass.
HENRY BOYNTON, Fresh.,	Pepperell, Mass.

I wish you would send me a catalogue, complete from the foundation of your own chapter, and also of all the others, with the exception of the Beta and Theta Chapters, which I already have. It will be some trouble, I know; but really, we want to know all our brothers, at least by name. Will you not send a catalogue in your next letter?

I have for a long time been thinking of the propriety of publishing a catalogue of our association next fall. I have no sort of an idea of the whole number of our members, but should

9. A member of this chapter whose name is not mentioned in these or any subsequent letters of the series was Rev. Charles S. Robinson. He was initiated immediately after Henry Boynton and was obliged to leave college almost immediately thereafter and to teach school. Returning to college later, and finding that the chapter had become inactive, he became a member of Chi Psi, but he never gave up his membership in Beta Theta Pi and insisted that he should not have been dropped from the roll. In the catalogue of the Williams members of Phi Beta Kappa, he inserted the names of both fraternities after his name, and would not allow his name to be placed in that list in any other way. The writer (W. R. B.) met him in London, England, in 1892, and noting the writer's badge, Dr. Robinson told him of his relations with the Williams chapter.

think we might get out a fair one. Of course we should have a *splendid steel* engraving as a frontispiece. And I think we have abundant room to conjure up one "par excellence," considering the three stars, the diamond and wreath. You have probably seen the Alpha Delta Phi catalogue. If so, you will at once understand my idea. I think there might be some way of letting the Jefferson Chapter remain secret as to its existence. As, for instance, publishing the names of members of that chapter in *secret characters*.

I wish you would send me some half dozen or more copies of that address you mentioned. A good part of our members will wish for a copy. I send in the same mail with this letter another catalogue, as one of our brothers wished for a list of your college. Most any of you, I should think, would be glad to exchange. By the by, what has ever become of that address that, according to decree of last Convention, was to be forwarded to each chapter? We have not seen it. Do not fail to answer immediately in reference to badges, &c.

P. S. CORNELIUS, INDIANA, TO EDW. H. MUNGER, MIAMI.

ETA CHAPTER, BLOOMINGTON, IND., Dec. 16th, 1847.

Your letter to Bro. Clark came to hand duly, which I now, with no little interest, attempt to answer. The reception of a letter from Sister Alpha was a very agreeable surprise to us, for we had been expecting a word from her so long—indeed, it had been so long since we had heard from her, that we had almost given up hearing from her any more.

I shall not administer to you a raking down for neglecting us so long, since, seeing your fault, you plead guilty. I dislike to see any one find fault with another for the same fault for which he is himself censurable. I am afraid we are all too negligent of our correspondence. It is one of the indispensables to the existence of our association; at least to its prosperity.

It gives us pleasure to hear that Betaism is so popular; that it is still triumphant about you. It is not less pleasing to me to tell you that the Eta star is shining bright. Our prospects are quite flattering. We are a band firmly united by the bonds of our order. We are swiftly growing in power and influence. There is not a suspicion here that such a fraternity as ours exists. Our

number has increased some this term. At our last meeting we initiated two, who will, we trust, make whole-souled Betas. The following is the list of our regular members:

O. CLARK, President, Sen.,	Vernon, Ind.
R. M. OVERSTREET, Sen.,	Franklin, Ind.
I. W. LOVE, Sen.,	New Amsterdam, Ind.
J. H. MCMURTRIE, Jun.,	Rockville, Ind.
C. McLEAN, Jun.,	Madison, Ind.
P. S. CORNELIUS, Recorder, Jun.,	Rockville, Ind.
J. M. ALLEN,	Rockville, Ind.

There are some two or three at the University whom we have under consideration, and may take them in before long.

I am sorry that I have to inform you that at the close of last term, last of September, we had to expel one of our members, Brother Holland, though you have no doubt had a word of it before now. We were unfortunate in getting into such a difficulty. The move was not, however, a hasty one. It had been contemplated for months before it was made. Some of the Chapters have been under a gross misunderstanding of the causes of this slight breeze; so as to think the expulsion was unjust. The principal ground was a general want of confidence in Mr. H., brought on by several instances of deception on his part, which were cited. Not an Eta in attendance could place implicit confidence in him. We could not meet and have that warm flow of friendship which Betas should cherish and cultivate. To go no further, then, we thought it decidedly best for our order that his connection with it should be dissolved. Were we not right?

I am glad that a branch of our glorious association is to be established at the University of Alabama, under such favorable prospects. I hope you will not delay long in writing to us again. Give us all the news. Christmas time will soon be here. I might write a good deal more; but I am so unwell I can scarcely sit up. You will excuse this scrawl.

ALONZO P. CARPENTER, WILLIAMS, TO R. VANCE MOORE, MIAMI.
WILLINGTON, CONN., Dec. 17th, 1847.

By this evening's mail I received your letter (hang this pen; try another) of the 14th inst. Shall order your badges immediately; but there is one important particular which you forgot to mention, and that is the date to be engraved upon

the back—that is, the date of the foundation of your chapter. I think it was 1839, for I think your chapter was the first founded, but I am not sure whether it was yours, or the old chapter at Cincinnati, or the one at Athens. To prevent the possibility of a mistake, I write to have you send the true date. The price of the badges will be four dollars for each one, as I before stated. The die costs eight dollars; of this the Michigan chapter pays four dollars, and *myself* the rest. And here it may not be entirely improper for me to state that, as a chapter, we are poor in the “goods of this world.” Thus far I have done all that has been done in reference to badges, and it makes out quite a little bill. In the first place, I sent to Cincinnati for a badge last summer \$15, which I expect never to see again. I spent a week in New Haven, to superintend the making of the die, which, with my traveling expenses to and from, cost me \$15; and then \$8 for the die, making \$38 for badges; so that my badge will cost, in fact, \$42.

I make this much preface by way of observing that, in consideration of my extra trouble and expense, you Western chapters ought at least to make out the greater part of the cost of the die. The Hudson Chapter I suppose will also take some badges, but I am not certain. I have not yet heard from them on the subject. Were it not for my own extra expense and losing what I sent west I should say nothing about it; but you see of course how it is. The die will of course be considered as owned by the association at large. I did inquire not long since what an old pin would be worth, and he told me it would be worth from a dollar and a half to a dollar and seventy-five cents. Of course if you sell a pin to any jeweller there, it is with the understanding that it is to be used for old gold, and not sold as a breast-pin. The badges will probably be ready (all but the date) as soon as you can get an answer here. Direct as before. I shall look for an answer as early as the return mail.

It will be necessary for you to get Eastern bills,¹⁰ as

10. This reference may seem rather blind to the modern reader accustomed to a currency good all over the United States, but at that time private banks were organized everywhere without supervision and their bills were only receivable without a discount a short distance from the place of their location. There was a current story at the time that a bank in Indiana which proclaimed on its bills that it was on a “specie foundation” based the statement upon the fact that there were a hundred Spanish Dollars buried in the cellar of the building in which it was located.

Western bills will not pass, except at considerable discount—as far east certainly as New York. I hope you will not delay in answering this, bearing in mind that it takes nearly two weeks for the passage of the letters by mail. By the by, don't forget to send us a copy of that address. We should like some half-dozen copies.

Dont' forget either to have a list of all chapters sent on as soon as possible. Have you heard how they succeed in establishing a branch at Tuscaloosa? I am anxious to hear from there.

THOMAS REAGAN, INDIANA ASBURY, TO R. V. MOORE, MIAMI.

DUBLIN, IND., December 27th, 1847.

In this little sheet it will be necessary for me to make some apology for not more punctually performing my duty, as Corresponding Secretary of the Zeta Chapter of B Θ II. In the first place, my time had nearly expired, and in the second there were but three of our old members came back at the beginning of this year; and we did not do anything until last week. We initiated one senior, Mr. Hester, and two juniors, Messrs. Conwell and Dixon, all of the first water. We still intend working a great hole in the senior class, and probably on some of the others. Our sophomore and junior classes are replete with good fellows, worthy to wear the badge and bear the name of Betas. These fellows are ours certain, and will take all the performances next spring, as far as they reach, and must have something to say in the anniversary performances of the literary societies.

We are beginning to be fearful that the blood moves too slow in some of our other sister chapters, and consequently the body is becoming too cold to forward ——— and ——— with that speed which it deserves to move. No want of energy should mark our progress with one single blemish; for we may do much, if we only muster energy. And this should be noble, God-like energy; the energy of the mind; it is with the mind we have to act and do. No insignificant motive should ever characterize our movements, but each should characterize the magnitude of the effort by the amount of good he may perform. Where is there a field so prolific of good fruits as ours? Where so much mind is brought in contact, and where almost unlimited range is given

to our sway. As a chapter the Zeta has always succeeded in procuring every one as members who have heard our constitution. I believe, too, every one whom we have spoken to. Our Michigan boys are the most punctual in their correspondence of all the chapters of our order. And, by the way, we have not heard from *Alpha* for the last five months. We hope our mother has not forgotten her children; but will again speak a kind word, that we may gain wisdom from venerable teaching. And, by the way, you will please direct your next to William H. Dixon, Corresponding Secretary; and William H. Conwell, President. I will give you our list as far as I have any doubts about your not having it:

BARTLETT Y. COFFIN,
JOSEPH H. MCCREA,
HENRY S. CAUTHORN,
GREENBERRY SHORT,
BENJAMIN F. RAWLINS,
WM. H. DIXON, Cor. Sec.,
WM. H. CONWELL, Pres't,
WM. MCK. HESTER,

Paoli, Ind., Minister.
Laurence Co., Ind., Minister.
Vincennes, Ind.
Lafayette, Ind.
Bedford, Ind.
Jeffersonville, Ind.
Cambridge City, Ind.
Scott County, Ind.

I wish you to give us some general information in regard to the progress of our cause, as far as you can conveniently; and likewise a list of Recorders. There are some chapters that we have never written to, from the fact of not knowing their Recorders. Zeta sends her regard to her Alma Mater.

STEPHEN C. TABER, WABASH, TO EDW. H. MUNGER, MIAMI.

CRAWFORDSVILLE, IND., Dec. 27th, 1847.

The interesting communication of Bro. Moore was duly Received, which, permit me to assure you, met with a hearty reception.

This reply has long been delayed, in consideration of our "condition and prospects."

Excitement has ruled almost exclusively the whole time since my letter to you. There were four societies in college at that time—two literary and two secret. One of the latter was our own.

A prejudice existed against us in particular; and we were termed "Excelsiors," "Literary aristocracy," &c., which of course by no means suited the democratic (not in the political sense) sentiments of the students in general. The consequence was they were nearly all arrayed against us. We seemed a "peculiar people, set apart to ourselves." This influence worked against us in the literary societies. So much so that we were diligently excluded from all posts of trust and honor, but regarded with marked coldness. This of course we severely felt; therefore, on an appointed evening, we asked and received, after some hesitation on their part, an honorable dismissal. This bold step only widened the breach, and engendered bitter feelings to a greater degree than before.

At this time the Faculty discovered that the other secret society had continued to hold its meetings contrary to express laws. They therefore arraigned some of the principal members, yet dared not proceed to coercive measures, since they had determined to act in a body. Consequently, had one member been expelled or dismissed, one-fifth of the students would have voluntarily left the institution. The matter was temporarily settled by some concessions on the part of the Faculty.

In the meanwhile tremendous excitement prevailed. The sympathy of the public and the students, with few exceptions, was enlisted against the Faculty; regarding them as exhibiting marked partiality towards us, and looking no further than to the fact that both the associations were secret and not to their respective characters.

At night they proceeded by torch light, with martial music, to town, after stopping at the President's residence and giving him a salutation.

Their charitable curses and groans were liberally heaped up on the heads of the Faculty—in short it was open rebellion.

At this crisis the Faculty was perplexed. They could not make a blow at the other secret society, since we stood in the way; and they well knew that they would only be increasing the negative list should they pursue an arbitrary course in relation to us. We therefore sent them a memorial, stating that it was by no means our desire to clog their movements, but we were willing to embrace the alternative and seek connection with other colleges.

This memorial they sent back, with new protestations of the high esteem and regard entertained by them towards us; but came and entreated us, by all the claims which the good of the institution has upon us, to show some spirit of compromise, representing us as almost holding the keys to the tranquility and dignity of the institution, and yet unwilling to secure its prosperity. They further proposed to us that, in consideration of the above unhappy state of affairs, we should dissolve, with the proviso that every other organization known as secret should do likewise, when an amicable arrangement could be effected.

We were thus placed in an unhappy position. Everything seemed to depend on our immediate action. These circumstances rent our society into divisions: Some upon the grounds of a higher duty, were in favor of disbanding, and others that the exigencies of the case did not demand such a sacrifice. However, the final vote resulted in a willingness to accede to the proposition. The other societies were notified of this fact, and further, if a single organization remained in college after the expiration of twenty-four hours, our action would not be considered valid, but we would forthwith reorganize.

But in the allotted time not an association, secret and otherwise, remained. We were therefore disbanded. We applied the match to the train that blew up older societies than the B Θ II; but alas! Sampson-like, we blew up ourselves. The fatal vote was not unanimous, but a bare sufficiency was gained by counting in blanks.

It has been my melancholy duty to inform you of this in my official capacity, which I would gladly have shrunk from, as I but little thought I should ever be called upon to communicate the particulars of the fall of our glorious chapter.

Judge us not harshly, since you cannot, through the medium of my feeble pen feel the force of the circumstances which rendered it thus necessary. Cool deliberation sanctioned the act of those who voted as they did. And believe me, it was given up by none without a struggle. Yet then was a time to decide, and they all did decide, as they were aware they would have to abide by that decision. It is idle for me to continue, as but a plain statement of the facts was all I deemed necessary, and that I have given.

VARNUM D. COLLINS, WABASH, TO EDW. H. MUNGER, MIAMI.

IOTA CHAPTER OF THE B & H.

CRAWFORDSVILLE, IND., Dec. 28th, 1847.

You have undoubtedly, ere the arrival of this, received a letter from our Recorder, Stephen C. Taber. It is hardly necessary to state at this time its import, but to inform you of that which he could not with propriety do in his official capacity.

His letter was open to the inspection of our chapter, and it was then forwarded by him to you, for the purpose of allaying all suspicion in the minds of those who have taken the liberty of declaring, as they would have it, extinct, that which only a convention can do.

The circumstances which led to this fatal issue, we are forced to confess, were imperative, and considered by those who yielded to them of sufficient importance to sacrifice our association, to which many of our number have devoted their highest energies—their talents and their personal characters.

You will have perceived, by a perusal of our Recorder's letter, that there has been in our college a high state of excitement, and that our chapter, if not the origin, was at least the principal element which gave it birth, and in order to check its disastrous consequences, some conciliatory step on our part was necessary.

Those of us, therefore, who were determined to sustain the identity of the chapter in some manner, finding that it was divided in feeling and action, and that some cared little for its fate, secretly met and matured a plan by which we could excommunicate, without hard feeling and suspicion, those who were not willing to "sink or swim" with the chapter, and thus regain our loved but long lost secrecy. We, as a chapter, could have left Wabash College, but it being a Western institution, and its classes small, such a movement would undoubtedly have retrograded it years in its growth and prosperity.

A meeting of the chapter was therefore called, at which time a resolution for dissolution was moved and carried; the following being the votes cast, counting blanks in the affirmative.

Affirmative.—John L. Campbell, Ninian S. Dickey, Theodore A. Lemon, James O'Brien, Archibald S. Reid.

Negative.—Varnum D. Collins, W. A. McCorkle.

Blanks.—J. Wells Taylor, Stephen C. Taber, Francis S. Wilber, Newton W. Darlington, John D. Condit.

Messrs. Bowman, Holman and Houston, being absent from college, did not vote.

The members voting blank, voted as they did through policy, being as desirous as any for upholding the chapter. It will be seen, therefore, that it was in our power to sustain the chapter in its old form; but believing that the true interests of the association would not be promoted by so doing, we voted as we did, and trust that our course will meet with the approbation of the different chapters. On the same evening on which the vote was taken for dissolution, those voting in the negative and blanks secretly reorganized and elected officers. I know not in what light the association will look upon those who willfully voted in the affirmative. It is the earnest desire of our chapter, however, that they should no longer be considered Betas.

We desire you, therefore, to write to our late Recorder, S. C. Taber (as though the chapter was extinct), stating that those who voted in the affirmative are, or should be considered, no longer members of the association, and that the property of the chapter be entrusted to the care of S. C. Taber.

Believing that you understand the policy and propriety of this step, it is needless at this time to state the reasons. The utmost care and caution should be exercised with regard to our chapter, acknowledging its existence to those only who are, according to the following list, its members, or to the other chapters. We are placed, you will perceive, in a very critical position; and the least suspicion on the part of excommunicated members, or enemies, would lead to our discovery. Should our Faculty or students know that we had reorganized, we should be instantly expelled, and in all probability mobbed. Direct your letters, after the one to Taber, to Mr. William A. McCorkle, Lafayette, Ind.

I will state the reason for this. The son of the Post Master here is a member of one of the suppressed societies in college, and often has charge of opening and distributing the mails. Thus our correspondence would be known, &c.

The following is a complete list of our members, under the new organization. We do not wish the graduates to know anything of our existence:

JOHN COBURN, A. B.,	Indianapolis, Ind.
JOHN H. HOUGHAM, A. B.,	Danville, Ind.
POTTER COULTRIN, A. B.,	Terre Haute, Ind.
REUBEN S. REAGAN, B. S.,	New Winchester, Ind.
VARNUM D. COLLINS, Soph., Pres.,	Lafayette, Ind.
WM. A. MCCORKLE, Soph.,	Laporte, Ind.
FRANCIS A. WILBER, Soph.,	Laporte, Ind.
STEPHEN C. TABER, Jun.,	Logansport, Ind.
J. WELLS TAYLOR, Sen.,	Yates County, N. Y.
NEWTON W. DARLINGTON, Soph.,	West Union, O.
JOHN D. CONDIT,	Terre Haute, Ind.

We will probably reveal the secret to Holman, Houston and Bowman on their return to college.

I send you on this sheet a copy of our odes.¹¹ Although they possess but little real poetical merit (being the offspring of a few idle hours), yet when sung with skill and feeling, or more properly, "with the spirit and the understanding," they add much to the interest of the meeting.

Trust that we may hereafter sail with brisk breeze in a wide sea, with no breakers.

BY-LAWS OF THE DELTA CHAPTER AT JEFFERSON COLLEGE, SENT
TO THE MICHIGAN CHAPTER AS A MODEL IN 1847.¹²

ARTICLE I.

De Capito.

§ 1. This Chapter shall hold its regular meetings once every three weeks in term time, at such an hour and place as the Recorder may designate, the first meeting of each term being held on the first Tuesday evening—

§ 2. The Recorder may convene special meetings.

§ 3. Each member shall present at the first meeting of each Collegiate year, or if admitted in the interim, at the meeting sub-

11. The Odes referred to were printed on a single sheet and so far as known are the first collection of songs in the fraternity. This sheet is reproduced in facsimile on page 263 of the 1907 edition of the Handbook of Beta Theta Pi.

12. These by-laws are here reprinted merely for the purpose of showing the nature of the business transacted at the meetings of one of the chapters at that time and disclosing the system of administering its affairs.

sequent to his admission, the name of the department for essay writing, which shall be recorded in the minutes,

§ 4. No member shall write an essay out of his department, except by permission of the president,

§ 5. The anniversary of this Chapter shall be held on the third Tuesday of October, at 6 o'clock P. M. The exercises to be determined by the Chapter—

§ 6. The expenses of this Chapter shall be defrayed by direct taxation,

ARTICLE II.

De Sociis.

§ 1. The department of members during the session shall be that of gentlemen in the social circle,

§ 2. No member shall be exempt from any of the literary duties while a member of College unless previously excused,

§ 3. The penalty for failure in attendance at regular meetings shall be a fine of fifty cents.

§ 4. For failure in the performance of literary duties the fine shall be one dollar.

§ 5. No member can dissolve his connection with the society except by expulsion which shall require a vote of two-thirds of the acting members.

§ 6. When an individual receives an appointment to membership in this Chapter but accepts not, the vote of the chapter shall not be recorded.

ARTICLE III.

De Officiis.

§ 1. The officers of this chapter shall be chosen at the first regular meeting in January and July of each year,

§ 2. The officers of this chapter shall be a president, a vice-president, recorder, and, marshal.

§ 3. It shall be the duty of the vice-president to fill the post of president, in the absence of that officer.

§ 4. It shall be the duty of the marshal to preserve order, keep the door, note delinquencies, and report the same at the next meeting, and upon the introduction of new members wait on and conduct them to the place of meeting,

§ 5 The recorder shall read letters of correspondence and

all anonymous productions presented through him provided they be neither scandalous nor invective, &c., &c.

ARTICLE IV.

De Negotiis.

§ 1. When the person to be initiated is formally introduced by the Marshal, the members shall rise, and the President shall put the following questions:

1st. Do you wish to become a member of the Beta Theta Pi Society?

2nd. Do you pledge the courtesy of a gentleman, and your honor to preserve inviolably secret all that you may know before signing the Constitution. (If these questions are answered in the affirmative the Constitution shall be read and signed, and the President shall say—"In behalf of the Beta Theta Pi Society I tender you most cordially the congratulations of its members, the welcome of fellowship and the privileges of our brotherhood.")

§ 2. The literary exercises of the Chapter in addition to the anonymous productions read by the Recorder, shall consist of Essays & Reviews. Two essays being read each regular meeting by the members in Alphabetical Order and at the succeeding meeting two reviews of the aforesaid Essays, the essayist being announced and the reviewers appointed by the President, at the meeting preceding the performance of their several duties,

§ 3. All elections shall be conducted by ballot and a majority elects,

§ 4. The following shall be the regular order of business:
First, Prayer.

Second, Admission of members.

Third, Reviews read.

Fourth, Essays read.

Fifth, Correspondence &c., read.

Sixth, Miscellaneous business.

Seventh, Adjournment.

ARTICLE V.

De Legibus.

§ 1. It shall require a vote of two-thirds of the acting members to alter or amend these By-Laws,

§ 2. The By-Laws or any part of them may be suspended for any time not exceeding one evening.

WM. A. RANKIN, JEFFERSON, TO SIDNEY D. MILLER, MICHIGAN.

CANONSBURG, PA., January 28, 1848.

Ten thousand thousand pardons that your friendly letter of the 30th ult., has remained unanswered so long. Vacation was held temptingly before me, and, up to human nature I seized upon the opportunity and paid many a visit among my friends. Even now, disease confining me to my room gives me leisure to fulfill this pleasing duty. You may have had some reason, from my silence, to think that your proffer of friendship between us two, in particular had been unwelcome. But not so, it is a source of infinite joy. We may, though far apart, be bound in the links of friendship closer and closer than if we should meet from day to day and interchange the sentiments of our hearts. True, the attachment of the respective Recorders will endure whatever be the object of the association, since they can read and know each others thoughts, but then each member should live almost in his fellows forever.

We tender you many thanks for the kind proffer of assistance in procuring breast pins. However we shall not task your generosity at present, but lay your offer up in store for the future. No one of our Zeta Chapter will leave college without bearing one with him. We all desire to have them—but it is needless and troublesome to send for them often and we will therefore wait and see the whole number needed.

The question proposed in your letter in relation to the establishment of a Magazine is one of great importance. The plan, as laid down in your remarks, was to have it supported by the Greek fraternity entirely. If successful it would certainly elevate the character of B Θ Π. If unsuccessful there might be many a taunt—an unkind jest—heaped upon us, the talent of the fraternity would rank below “par.” This would be the failure. But you must be aware that intellect is of different degrees among us, some towering—others moderate. I refer to tales for composition. Now under the supposition that a Magazine is edited we must either have an Editor to cull the flowers presented from our garden, or we must have a number of Editors under the name of

a Committee, for it would be out of the question to publish all that is presented.

Now, though it is wrong, man is so constituted as to become jealous, and all the powers of the will cannot prevent the monster from making inroads upon him. Some of the correspondence would be declined. The author would think it an insult upon him and become hurt. The Chapter to which he belongs would be displeased, and see in many a published piece, those no better than the one declined. Thus it would be the source of continual annoyance among the different Chapters. More anon.

I send you a complete list of our members from the formation of the Chapter. You haven't desired it, but all the other Chapters do and perhaps it will be agreeable to you also.

SAMUEL S. LAWS, MIAMI, TO SIDNEY D. MILLER, MICHIGAN.

OXFORD, O., January 29, 1848.

In looking over our list two letters from Theta were found, unanswered, one dated November 19, and the other November 24. There is unpardonable negligence in this, for which someone of the recorders is accountable. However, they would, doubtless, have been answered ere this, had not the chapter's attention been wholly engrossed by matters of more immediate concern.

We were highly pleased to hear of your continued prosperity, and fair prospects, but grieved to find your ranks thinned of two. In such matters, the individual chapters have discretionary power, and are alone qualified to judge what mode of procedure is best. There are two modes, *vis*, "resignation"¹³ and expulsion" in which the society may dispose of its members as would appear from the proceedings of the convention of 1842. The particular regulations with respect to either or both of these are to be made by each chapter. It is well, I think, for the society to recognize the power of receiving "*resignations*" in order that the rigid exercise of power which expels may be confined to those cases where all

13. The fraternity has always permitted resignations. This is in great contrast to the practice of many of the college fraternities which have not allowed resignations; and has undoubtedly been in furtherance of the idea that it was not desirable to keep an unwilling member in the fraternity nor to place the stigma of expulsion upon a person who had done nothing to deserve it, but who might wish for perfectly proper reasons to withdraw from the fraternity, for instance, from religious scruples regarding membership in secret societies.

claims to the respect and confidence of the society have been forfeited. The one is the mild and kind treatment which a gentleman should claim at our hands, if circumstances rendered it necessary for him to withdraw from our association—the other would be a mark, reserved for those who treacherously and traitorously would subvert the society or set its disciplinary power at defiance. The one should disconnect, and leave no stain, the other, sever every bond, and brand as an outcast. It would seem proper, that there should be some such discrimination, and yet in neither case is the bond of secrecy looser. This, beyond doubt, is as fixed and immutable as the distinction between right and wrong. The reasons these gentlemen urged for “severing their connection” with us are rather strange when we consider the principles on which all the societies of the college are conducted. Our bonds of secrecy, I judge, are no more *binding*, and the only difference seems to be, with respect to secrets, that we keep ours, but the others, generally, do not keep theirs. The obligation, however, is the same. For the two years and a half, I have been a member of this chapter at least two-thirds of the members have been members of a church—and I believe nearly one-half with the ministry in view. But as yet I have seen no one of them chafing under the obligations of secrecy. Presumption would be, that we have been a pretty moral set, wouldn’t it?

Corwin is still a Beta and a noble fellow, he is well worthy of his sire.

I have no knowledge about the “documents” of the suppressed chapters. You are right, they should not be left scattered loosely over the country. It would be well to make this a subject of special inquiry between this and the convention. I think there will be two representatives at the convention from Alpha chapter. The chapters at Transylvania and Princeton are not likely to revive. There is no hope for the Princeton chapter as I am informed by Richardson a graduate of it, whom I met last fall and also by Hay now at the seminary at Princeton. As to establishing a chapter in Illinois I have nothing to say, I think though there are enough better materials to work on, for some years yet.

You are not prepared to receive the news it now becomes my unpleasant task to communicate. In short there has been a general blow up in our college—not of the secret societies par-

ticularly, but of the college in general. The secret societies, however, are, in effect, for the time being completely crushed. The $\Delta \Delta \Phi$, has only one member left, a sophomore. The Beta Theta Pi has two—a sophomore and myself. The senior class is reduced from 20 to 9—the junior from 12 to 5. The sophomore $\Delta \Delta \Phi$, leaves in the spring and the sophomore Beta probably leaves then also, this is Noble—he is in truth “the concrete” of which his name is the “abstract.” The present President of the chapter is Faries, a graduate, student of Theology—he leaves at the end of his session in March. The prospect is, then that the incumbent recorder will be the only vital function of the venerable and beloved Alpha Chapter during next summer.

It would be a fruitless and bootless task for me to burden you with particulars. There are a thousand things (in such cases) of which we ourselves *feel* the importance, but are entirely unable to raise a just appreciation of it in others—be our effort to that effect never so faithful. The substance of the affair is about this—about two weeks since the boys determined on having some *fun*, and to that end, took a very considerable quantity of snow (which was several inches deep on the campus at the time but rapidly melting) and several cords of wood into the entrances of the main college building, and therewith, in a somewhat original manner, very securely barricaded the doors. I remember when I used to go to school, on Old School Creek, Va., we called this “barring the master out.” The recitation room doors were otherwise fastened, and upon the whole, a stranger would have concluded that the boys intended to bother the Professors a little, and get a day’s play for a hard night’s work. The result, however, proved far otherwise. The Faculty took it to heart as a high handed attempt to resist college authority and thereupon began to issue arraignments. The first called up were of the more civil sort, so the faculty thought would serve as informers. Among the first brought up was one not in the scrape, yet knew some who were—told all about himself but firmly refused to tell on anybody else. For this they dismissed him. This attempt to break down an established college law among students was an unlucky step—so at least it proved. Then the whole college boiled with rage, and immediately an autograph list of forty-six names was sent in, to save all further trouble of inquiring who were in the scrape. And there was hardly a man of that number, who

would make the least acknowledgment of wrong or any promise whatever. "Not sorry"—"no promise," off went a head. Indeed, suspension or rather dismissal (there was no expulsion) was courted. Each stood by the other, nor was there any alternative for the Faculty but to tack "right about" and readmit every man they had dealt with. This was a crisis, but each stood his ground and the result is as stated in brief. This was a real aristocratic spree, numerous church members were in it and it is a notorious fact that hardly a single "scrub" was implicated. These are left to be served up for another dish. About thirty or more will leave. Some honorably dismissed. They must all go to other colleges. Will they get in? I'll bet a dollar.¹⁴

THEO. S. PAYNE, WESTERN RESERVE, TO E. H. MUNGER, MIAMI.

BETA CHAPTER, HUDSON, OHIO, Feb. 9th, 1848.

Having just entered on my duties, I shall be able only to give you a brief statement of the condition and prospect of our chapter, and would commence by saying that the Beta Chapter is in a very fine condition, and our prospects for future prosperity very flattering.

We number now fifteen of the true-hearted, noble-souled Betas. We initiated one at our last meeting, and expect to receive two more at the next meeting. The field has not been very extended of late for our operations, and we have been quite careful in securing those of only the very first order. We have been determined not to make members the sole consideration—no, nor the least consideration whatever. We have kept the standard at the highest possible point, and find ourselves on the most firm foundation. The Alphas have been making quite a strike, but those which they have secured we would not for a moment think of.

They cannot injure us in the least; but on the other hand feel very restive under the influence the Betas are exerting here in college. They even have gone so far as to unite with another faction, to make a stand in opposition to us; but even thus they can effect nothing. The name of Beta Theta Pi carries with it a charm that operates with an influence entirely irresistible by all the efforts of the Alphas.

14. This was the Snow Rebellion previously mentioned.

Do you hear anything in reference to the chapter at Alabama? If so, please inform us. As I have as yet received no correspondence from the chapters, I am able to give no particular information. I wish you would write me and inform me of the condition and prosperity of your chapter; also please send a list of your members. On account of an accumulated amount of correspondence on hand, I am able to write but a few lines at this time.

I will annex a list of our members.

CHAS. PIERCE,	Hudson, O.
EBENEZER BUSHNELL,	Newark, O.
H. E. PAYNE, President,	Parkman, O.
KARL RUGER,	Hudson, O.
LEMUEL BISSELL,	Milan, O.
C. W. PALMER,	Ohio City, O.
C. A. NORTON,	Charleston, O.
J. MERRIAM,	Randolph, O.
T. DAGGETT,	Chicago, Ill.
C. ARMSTRONG,	Claridon, O.
GEO. C. PAYNE, Vice President,	Newport, O.
THEO. S. PAYNE, Recorder,	Madison, Ind.
I. G. GRAHAM,	Hudson, O.
H. P. SANFORD,	Painesville, O.
R. F. SAWYER,	Austinburg, O.

WM. A. RANKIN, JEFFERSON, TO R. V. MOORE, MIAMI.

CANONSBURG, Feb. 10th, 1848.

We have been involved in a perfect sea of mistakes. Sam. Tom is in a fever of excitement and I am completely confused. I fear me the well earned reputation of our chapter for punctuality, in the reign of the aforesaid Sam. Tom will be dimmed by the unwarrantable, or rather unprecedented, pause in our correspondence for the last three months. We wrote you in October. Some time in the following month Sam. Tom received a letter from you. Here then is the source of the misunderstanding. He often receives letters from members of the association of an altogether personal or private character. I supposed this was such, and that he would answer you. Under this impression we anxiously awaited a return to ours of Oc-

tober. None appeared, and we still delayed writing, in expectation of it. During this period Sam. Tom supposed me to have answered it, or he says he would have taken that task upon himself. Today, in conversation, we happened to touch upon our correspondence and the whole affair was made apparent. So, brother, we humbly offer our apology at the shrine of thy goodness, and ask for pardon. Even though this mistake had not been, your kind heart would still be forced to excuse my negligence. In the last two or three months my whole time has been engaged in writing—writing orations, essays, epistles, private and public, and so forth. But this I do not ask—my first excuse is the one and the only just one; for all other business should be postponed to fulfill the duties of the B Θ II. Hereafter, the last week of each month shall be devoted to her correspondence, and no longer shall the charge of “negligence,” or “coldness in the cause” be heaped upon our heads. All the chapters owe us an answer at present, except Hudson. We had thought her sunk in oblivion; but a voice comes forth from her today and proclaims that she still exists. That chapter is a mystery. We have written to her several times, and no answer came; and now, when she writes, no reference is made to our communications. The institution may have been rustivating for the last six months, and neglected all business. They may not think it important to answer us, or there may be no mail to the place; or again the letters may have gone to Washington. But be this as it may, the present is the first letter we have had from her for some six months past. The other chapters are all exceedingly uniform in their correspondence. They write nothing important, except at Bloomington an expulsion has taken place. This will be a sad blot upon the records of the chapter and the whole brotherhood.

Some weeks since I copied the Constitution and By-Laws, the members of all the chapters of the association, and transmitted them to Brother Latham, in Tuscaloosa, Ala.¹⁵ As yet we have received no answer, though we could scarcely expect it so soon. We long to hear of her “debut” and progress. May she be beautiful, virtuous, and command admiration and respect.

The Zeta Chapter may be said to thrive on dangers and difficulties. Six members of college constitute our number, and all

15. The proposed chapter at Alabama never was organized.

the rest are combined with the faculty to crush us. Their strong arm is uplifted; but even as it towers above us we laugh at, we scorn it. The true conspirators in the plot are jealousy and envy. They attribute every uncommon occurrence to a freak of the Betas. The students act as spies upon us, and report to the Faculty. They, poor souls, don't know whether to put confidence in their assertions or not. They can't somehow believe there is an association. However, we have the agreeable satisfaction of knowing that, if discovered, the penalty will be expulsion. But, on the other hand, we know this cannot be so long as we are true to ourselves, and no one doubts this. We hear and have reasons to believe that some "choice spirits" have even banded themselves together for our revelation. This we know, that on every occasion a "certain crowd" exert their influence against everything that smacks or could possibly smack of Betaism.

We lately initiated a Mr. Calvin, a native of the Emerald Isle. A good fellow and talented. A rich incident occurred at the time of his initiation, which I will tell you again.

SIDNEY D. MILLER, MICHIGAN, TO SAMUEL S. LAWS, MIAMI.

ANN ARBOR, MICH., February 18th, 1848.

I received your welcome letter last Monday, and should have answered it immediately, as its importance demanded, if I had not been sorely pressed by imperative duties and I can but steal a moment now to answer you before recitation.

Verily, we are glad that you have shown so much spirit in your institution, although we regret that we have to suffer so much from the misdeeds of others. But even now we have hopes for you; one strong arm can do much; where one mind is left to work by itself, it has full scope, is not fettered by the opinions of others, and by strenuous exertion can effect more than when a dozen intellects form so many and conflicting plans that they are wearied by their own contests.

You are or will soon be entirely alone, the only representative of "*old Mother Alpha*;" the *field* is yours and yours alone, the *responsibility* is upon *you*, the importance of which you may judge better than I myself. Recollect that not only the Alpha's name but even its existence, as also the reputation and prosperity of all of us, lies *with you*, in your power to do whatsoever you

will with it. If you think that the Beta Theta Pi is an honor to the institution, an honor and a *benefit* to its members, let your arm be strong in the good work; relax not a single muscle but "bend to your oars," and row for dear life.

In the selection of co-operators in the good cause, the most wary care should be taken; the future reputation of your chapter depends upon *your* efforts alone, and when in future years (I trust we may still look forward so far) we see the Alpha flourishing or languishing, the honor or blame will be yours. *You* are now the embodiment of the "visible head of the association," captain, mate, common sailor and *cook*, and the functions of each of these persons will devolve upon you. A severe task, truly, but one which may be accomplished. But to other things than this: I know it is hard for you to do more than I have already spoken of, but couldn't you by some crook manage to write to those of your brethren who have gone to other colleges to see what prospect there is for establishing chapters?¹⁶ I would write you more. I *could* write for hours, but it will both weary you and get a "mark" for me, if I stay longer. My regards to your *one* other member and *our members* to yourselves.

THEO. S. PAYNE, WESTERN RESERVE, TO SAMUEL S. LAWS,
MIAMI.

BETA CHAPTER, HUDSON, O., April 5th, 1848.

Your letter of March 10th arrived in due season. I was very sorry to hear that you have become so reduced in numbers to one. You spoke of one upon whom you had your eye; have you yet succeeded? Why not transfer the Alpha chapter directly to Danville? Or is not that a good place for it? If it is, I should think it a good plan to do so. Was there not a request made once by some chapter to favor a branch at Danville, Ky.? I think there was. Do you know a word in reference to the Alabama branch? Was there ever a chapter established there? We gave our consent for such at one time, but have heard nothing from it since. Crawfordsville chapter has received a heavy blow; it killed about half our brethren; the remainder still go on in secret.

It is my painful duty to announce to you the death of one

16. The chapter at Centre college was organized as a result of the emigration of three of the Miami Betas to that institution.

of your Brothers, Rufus F. Sawyer. He was a true Beta, and in his death the Beta Chapter has received a severe blow. He died last week. I will forward to you, in the paper, our resolutions. He was a splendid scholar; much beloved by all who knew him. Death could not have taken from our midst one whose loss we so deeply mourn. It never can be made up to us here. Devotedly attached to the fraternity, we have lost a bright gem.

Do you know anything in regard to the Greencastle or Bloomington chapters? We do not hear a word from them. Please write me. I hope for more cheering news in regard to your chapter. The best wishes of the Beta to the Alpha.

ALONZO P. CARPENTER, WILLIAMS, TO SIDNEY D. MILLER, MICH.

WILLIAMS COLLEGE, April 6, 1848.

Heaven bless Gov. Briggs for sending us a fast day just at this particular moment. How I could otherwise have managed to get time without "taking it" I know not. I have the supreme "felicity," as the b-boys say here, to have some less than—well, a dozen (to give a very rough guess), back studies to make up just at present; which, if you know anything about it, is vastly interesting, especially in the opening of spring, when one feels inclined to "frisk," in a measure as it were. Well, as I was saying, Heaven, or rather Gov. Briggs, having blessed us, (the good people of Massachussetts), with a fast, I improve the opportunity to drop a line to our good brothers of the Theta.

In the first place, then, we are enjoying all the prosperity desirable; in other words, we initiate all we desire to. Of the freshmen we have as yet taken but one, but are on the point of taking several more. We take all we desire to. The freshman class is rather poorer than ordinarily; however, will have a goodly lot yet.

One of our number has lately gone to Dartmouth, and I have to-day written to him in order to learn if it is possible to accomplish anything in the way of starting a branch there. By-the-by, while I think of it, have you heard from Tuscaloosa? have they succeeded in establishing a chapter there? A branch of the Delta Kappa Epsilon, I learn has been lately established there.

Your badges are done—all but the engraving; the enamels, I believe, are perfect, and the whole badge suits us very well. For myself, I think the border ought to be a little heavier, but most think not. It is considered here as altogether the finest badge on the ground. It was made of precisely the size and shape of the last drawing Brother Ransom sent, and I must confess it strikes my eye to a T. They will be sent on in course of a few days or so. They will "take," there is no question about it in my mind.

Our junior exhibition comes off on the 2nd of May, in which three out of four Betas of our class take a part. The fourteen best scholars are put on by the faculty.

Now, Brother Miller, this is my last letter as recorder; if, however, I have "found favor in thy sight," and am deemed worthy, I should be happy to continue the correspondence as private which has begun as official. Brother R. W. Smith is the present recorder. By-the-by, as the knowledge of the fact may not come amiss, I would inform you that, with the exception of myself and one or two others, the brothers are all "church-members," though by no means of the order termed "blues." Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain yours as ever in the bonds.

BENJAMIN F. RAWLINS, INDIANA ASBURY, TO SAMUEL S. LAWS,
MIAMI.

GREENCASTLE, IND., April 22nd, 1848.

I suppose before this reaches Miami you will have associated with many others who will be worthy Greeks, who will bear the badge and unfurl the standard of kindred hearts.

Since writing the above, our chapter has had a meeting in the grove. Two were elected for future initiation, William T. Cunningham and William H. DeMotte. There was also an election of officers, which resulted in the choice of Mr. D. W. Voorhees¹⁷ President, and Isaac R. Hitt for Recorder.

It is desired by some of the former members of our chapter, and there is no opposition, I believe, by those now composing the chapter, to the election of H. D. Scott, as a member of our associ-

17. D. W. Voorhees referred to was a member of Congress from 1861 to 1866 and from 1869 to 1873 and afterwards United States Senator from Indiana for many years.

ation. He was formerly a student, and left college before our chapter was formed. He is a young man of eminent abilities, and promises fair to become one of the first men of our nation. I suppose he will be initiated, although there is no precedent for such election.¹⁸

The founder of our chapter is the man who proposes him.

We have not as yet selected our delegates to the convention, but will at our next meeting.

We hope that none of the chapters will fail to have a fair representation in the convention.

Write to us immediately if you can, and give us the whole history of your late disturbance. In haste.

SAMUEL S. LAWS TO LYMAN COCHRANE, MICHIGAN.

OXFORD, O., May 25, 1848.

The state of things this session is better than was expected. Brothers Faries, Mr. Noble and myself are upon the ground. When I wrote you my last it was a matter of doubt whether I alone would not be the sole representative. But as it is the case is not so desperate yet. And then again, those of our former members who left last winter, and are now at Centre College, Kentucky, are quite familiar with the existing state of things here and are frequently written to and consulted as though present. There has as yet been nothing special done since I wrote you last. It is probable though we may elect some one or two to the Alpha Chapter this session yet—can't say anything positively as to that however.

While, however, we who are at Miami, have been in *statu quo* those who left last winter are about to swarm for our chapter in Danville (Centre College). I sent them the constitution on Monday; this is Saturday, and they probably received it Thursday. They think all the circumstances in the case rather flattering. There are about 170 students and they have some good fellows to begin with. And it so happened that one of the most popular Professors in their institution is a Greek. This will give dignity

18. The practice of initiating young men of ability and culture who were not actively connected with the college at the time of such initiation was continued by the chapter at Indiana-Asbury for a number of years. The most prominent initiate of this class was Schuyler Colfax who afterwards became vice-president of the United States.

and importance to it at once, and recommend it to all, and no doubt, which is an important item these days, secure *tolerance*. I wish therefore, to request permission for them to proceed in forming a chapter at Centre College, Danville, Ky. Don't fail to write soon informing me as to your views and action in this case.

The convention this fall must be kept in mind by all. It will be a meeting of vast importance to the Society. All who possibly can should surely go. Neighboring chapters should send large delegations and then volunteers ought to try and rival them in number. Don't fail to mention it, and to urge its importance in any letter you write. We will try and have a representation. So far as the Alpha chapter is concerned it matters not about the time whether it be August or September. It is rather late now to effect a change, unless there can be an unusual degree of activity excited in correspondence upon it.

LYMAN COCHRANE, MICHIGAN, TO S. S. LAWS, MIAMI.

THETA CHAPTER, BETA THETA PI,
MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY, June 6th, 1848.

I received your letter yesterday and hasten to answer it, in accordance with your own request and the wish of the Theta chapter, which met last evening. We were very glad to learn that your prospects were so flattering, and were happily disappointed. When we heard from you last winter we had some fears that the leading star of Betaism was destined ere long to vanish; and that the institution which had beheld its rise in clouds, and watched it in its onward progress, would soon be without its cheering influence. Your request in regard to the establishment of a new chapter at Danville was laid before the members; and after hearing your letter, was carried by acclamation. I think that we ought to spread the leaven until we leaven the whole lump and so stop the mouths of our Alpha Delta brethren, who are continually flinging it in our faces that we have but few chapters and still fewer members than themselves. As to the latter part of the accusation we feel honored by it, since *inclination* and not *necessity* limits our numbers, for in this institution at least, we have only to say the word and they are ours. But we advocate the doctrine, weak in number but strong in unity.

We hope in a few days to secure tolerance. The prospects are very fair. Our omniscient faculty have seen fit to declare that the Alpha Deltas are no longer under their thumb, on account of a clause which is in their constitution, permitting them to locate chapters in other places than literary institutions. As the case is the same with us, we claim equal privileges. One of our members saw one of the faculty the other day and stated our wishes and their grounds. He said that if the case was as we represented, they could no longer claim any jurisdiction over us, but threatened hugely that they would not acknowledge us as a college society. To this we ejaculated: "Good Lord, deliver us." We have appointed a committee to demand as a right what we have solicited as a favor. Several of our "sympathetic members," as they are called, have swung out; and others are determined to do the same. If any action is taken against them by the faculty, an appeal will be made to the regents, and then we shall probably win the battle.

The change of time for holding the convention has been already agreed to by two-thirds of the chapters. Our two graduate members, Brothers Ransom and Miller, will attend. It is yet uncertain whether any others from this chapter will be in attendance, but it is not improbable. As you say, this will be a notable meeting to the society and its interests. We wish especially that the convention may pass some definite resolution which shall declare the order free and independent of all literary institutions. This, of course, will place us upon the same basis as other secret societies, which will be of advantage to us who are obliged to remain in a *shady* state. We hope that you will have a delegation and volunteers there, not in proportion to your *numbers*, but according to your *interest*. It certainly would be cheering to the brethren if fifty or sixty Greeks, staunch Spartans, should meet in conclave at Hudson next August. I have this moment seen our former recorder and from him obtained the names of those chapters which have given their consent to the proposed change. They are the Alpha, Beta, Delta, Theta, Iota and Kappa, and I believe he mentioned one other. The name of the recorder of the Princeton chapter is unknown to us. Do you know it? If so, please inform us. We have not heard from them for a long time. That and one or two other chapters do not seem to feel the necessity of a constant correspondence. To sustain the interest of the cause there must be a steady fire kept up, so that the ardor may

not become cooled by too long intervals. Hence you must look out for me, for I shall give you no peace. This is a fair warning. Among the Betas there can be no "*otium cum dignitate*." But I must close. Our chapter sends greeting to the Alpha.

ROBERT W. SMITH, WILLIAMS, TO SIDNEY D. MILLER, MICHIGAN.

WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS., June 12, 1848.

Your communication of 22nd May came to hand informing us of your election, change in the time of our Convention, your prosperity, *et cetera*. I should have written before this, but time and circumstances have prevented. We are very much pleased with the change made, or about to be made, in reference to the Convention of our worthy Order. So far as we are concerned, it will be much better.

Brother Carpenter and myself, *Deo volente*, will be with you there. We look forward with more than gloomy anticipation, becoming more anxious as the destined period approaches.

How pleasing the idea that there are those in distant lands and climes unknown whom we can call "Brother" and realize them as such, though in their veins flows not a drop of kindred blood. Were this the only thing effected by means of our union, we deem it well worthy the notice and cooperation, of every individual worthy to bear the name and wear the badge of B Θ Π.

We are prospering as usual here; the difficulties which at first appeared like mighty and impenetrable barriers, to obstruct our onward march to victory and triumph, have been removed. The missiles of revenge, hatred, and slander aimed at our devoted heads have fallen harmless to the ground. Our present position is high and commanding.

As long as Williams College has a name upon earth, until its magnificent Halls and lofty domes and Gothic arches shall smoke in the last great conflagration, the banner under which we march shall wave triumphantly on the banks of the Hoosac, bearing on its gorgeous folds, in bright triumphant, unfading colors, B Θ Π.

We have lately made inroads upon the ranks of the Social

Fraternity,¹⁹ by taking from them Messrs. George Moore and William Goodell of Constantinople.

We are afraid that a letter has been miscarried between your chapter and ours, Brother Ransom spoke some time ago about some money being sent to us but we have not received it hence we infer that it has met with some unknown fate on its way hither.

19. It was a common practice at that time for the college secret societies to solicit members from the ranks of the anti-secret organizations.

CHAPTER VI.

FROM THE CONVENTION OF 1848, TO THE CLOSE OF THE COLLEGE YEAR, 1851-52.

The period covered by this chapter is one of misfortune and bad management which had the result of causing the desertion of two of the chapters of the fraternity and the loss of two others and found the affairs of the fraternity at a very low ebb. In the period referred to, two conventions were held, one in August, 1848, at Hudson, Ohio, with the Western Reserve chapter, and the other in August, 1851, at Pittsburgh, Pa., with the Jefferson chapter.

At the convention of 1848, the Beta chapter at Western Reserve was represented by practically the entire chapter together with some alumni; the Theta at Michigan by three alumni and one undergraduate; and the Kappa at Williams by two undergraduates. In addition, Robert Vance Moore, who had emigrated from Miami to Centre and organized a chapter at the latter place, was allowed to take a seat as a representative of that chapter which had been organized the previous May. No other chapter was represented.

Each chapter represented made a report and the Michigan chapter procured the passage of a resolution to the effect that chapters of the fraternity were not necessarily restricted to colleges and not dependent upon them for membership, in the hope that by this movement the jurisdiction of the authorities at Michigan might be evaded. A resolution was passed with respect to the Iota Chapter at Wabash, to the effect that as a chapter had no right to declare itself defunct, the chapter still existed and its operations could be carried on by the members who had not assented to its becoming inactive.

The roll of chapters was rearranged as follows: *Alpha*, Miami; *Beta*, Western Reserve; *Gamma*, Jefferson; *Delta*, Indiana Asbury; *Epsilon*, Indiana; *Zeta*, Michigan; *Eta*, Wabash; *Theta*, Williams; and *Iota*, Centre, thus dropping out Princeton and Transylvania from the list.

The reports of several committees to the convention of 1848

were thought to be lost, but were recently found among the letters written to the Michigan chapter and are reproduced with the series of letters.

The number of letters passing between the chapters in 1848-49; 1849-50 and 1850-51 are painfully few. The reason is that Alpha at Miami, Zeta at Michigan, Eta at Wabash and Epsilon at Indiana were either inactive or fast becoming so and Beta at Western Reserve became inactive shortly afterwards. These chapters therefore received no letters. The Williams chapter deserted the fraternity, the Centre chapter lost its records during its suspension at the time of the Civil War. The Delta chapter's letters were all stolen and the only chapter that survived to recent times and preserved its files was the Gamma at Jefferson and these were secreted in 1910 or 1911 and the place of hiding is unknown.

There are no letters at all in the series for the college year 1850-51; and none for 1851-52, until April 1852, when the Miami chapter was reorganized.

Timothy Pelton of the Western Reserve chapter lived at Great Barrington, Massachusetts, and there became acquainted with Alonzo P. Carpenter who resided at Bath, New Hampshire, and who was a student at Williams College. This acquaintance ripened into friendship and resulted in the organization of a chapter at Williams through the efforts of Alonzo P. Carpenter, assisted by Robert W. Smith of Chicago, who knew some of the Betas in the West. The chapter was established under favorable auspices as has been related in a previous chapter. The correspondence of the chapter which is shown in the series of letters herein published shows an active, aggressive organization, but it can be seen from the tone of the letters written by Moore, its last corresponding secretary, that he at least was dissatisfied with the inefficiency of the fraternity administration, with the lack of sustained correspondence, and with the distance of his chapter from the rest of the fraternity. In the early spring of 1849 (May 8, 1849), a chapter was organized at Brown University, through the efforts of D. J. Glazier of Brown, who lived at Willington, Connecticut, a place at which A. P. Carpenter had spent two previous summers and where the two became acquainted.

The Brown chapter started its career with a comparatively

large membership loosely organized and which had not been welded together previously as a local society. Alpha Delta Phi had had a chapter at Brown founded in 1836 which became inactive with the graduation of the class of 1841, and its alumni had several times sought to reestablish it, but had been unsuccessful. When the Beta Theta Pi chapter was established at Brown, some of the Alpha Delta Phis told its members that if they had known that a new chapter organization was contemplated, they would have secured for it an Alpha Delta Phi charter and intimated that possibly it wasn't yet too late to accomplish such a result. Two of the members of this chapter, Delano Goddard and Melancthon Storrs, left Brown and went to Yale, and entering the Junior class, became members of Alpha Delta Phi, which was then at Yale a Junior Class Society. Contrasting the distance and weakness of the Beta Theta Pi chapters with the nearness and strength of those of Alpha Delta Phi, they began a movement to transfer the Brown chapter from Beta Theta Pi to Alpha Delta Phi and sought to sweep the Williams chapter into the movement at the same time. In this they were successful. The Brown chapter petitioned Alpha Delta Phi in December, 1850, and were admitted in March, 1851, and the Williams chapter petitioned in April, 1851, and were admitted in July, 1851, coalescing with a separate group of petitioners.

The writer was well acquainted with Samuel B. Goodale, one of the Betas at Williams, who went into Alpha Delta Phi, and Mr. Goodale explained that the chapter had had some difficulty with one of the Beta Theta Pi chapters about paying for some jewelry, that the letters from the Williams chapter had not been answered, that the men were dissatisfied because the Princeton and Harvard chapters which they thought were active when they entered Beta Theta Pi had before that time become inactive, and that a general sense of dissatisfaction had pervaded the chapter. He said, moreover, that a number of the members of the Williams chapter, including himself, had been members of the Equitable Fraternity the anti-secret society (which afterwards became a chapter of Delta Upsilon), and that they regarded a change of fraternity allegiance as something not of very serious import but which they were at liberty to make without any difficulty. Furthermore, he said that they were quite

astonished when they invited Alonzo P. Carpenter, Robert W. Smith and John Bascom to come with them into Alpha Delta Phi, to have these men indignantly refuse and act as though they thought the transference of the chapter was disloyal and immoral, and when Charles S. Robinson returned to college they were also astonished at his attitude. Mr. Goodale took considerable interest in Beta Theta Pi and for some years subscribed for the magazine and purchased its catalog and was always unable to see why the writer regarded his attitude as reprehensible.

The Wabash and Indiana chapters died in 1849, and the Miami chapter became inactive that same year by the graduation of its last member. The Michigan chapter held its last meeting September 7, 1850, and as stated above the Brown chapter deserted in December, 1850, and the Williams chapter in April, 1851. So that at the close of the college year 1850-51, the only active chapters were at Western Reserve, Jefferson, Asbury, Centre and a chapter established at Hampden Sidney College, April 24, 1850.

The convention of 1851 was held at Pittsburgh, and only three chapters were represented; the Western Reserve chapter, the Jefferson chapter, and the Williams chapter, but as the last named chapter was then inactive the fact was that only two chapters conducted this convention.

The committee on chapters declared the chapters at Williams, Brown, Wabash and Indiana inactive and recognized the fact that the chapters at Miami and Michigan were also inactive, but in view of the uncertainty concerning the future of fraternities at these two institutions, kept their place on the roll. The roll was rearranged as follows: *Alpha*, Miami; *Beta*, Western Reserve; *Gamma*, Jefferson; *Delta*, Indiana Asbury; *Zeta*, Michigan; *Iota*, Centre; *Lambda*, Hampden Sidney.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES TO THE CONVENTION OF 1848, (FOUND AMONG THE ARCHIVES OF THE MICHIGAN CHAPTER).

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INITIATION.

Aug. 8, 1848.

The committee appointed to propose a form of initiation

into the Beta Theta Pi respectfully beg leave to report that they have not now the time that it is necessary to enable them to perform in a satisfactory manner the duty assigned them. They deem it important however to urge upon the convention the necessity of providing some form and ceremony that may be used by all the chapters. The character and importance of the association depends in a manner upon the spirit with which the initiatory ceremony is conducted.

We should not be satisfied with reading the constitution and pledge to the novitiate and requiring occasionally an extemporaneous address from the presiding officer but should rather strive to impress upon him by recitation or lectures the prominent characteristics of the society. That this could be done without making themselves chargeable with being too ceremonious your committee do not doubt and they accordingly recommend that a committee of one from each chapter be appointed to correspond together upon the subject and requested to report some form of initiation to the presiding chapter before the first day of January, 1849.

GEO. L. BECKER.

W. S. AUMOCK.

A. P. CARPENTER.

R. V. MOORE.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON IOTA CHAPTER.

The Committee appointed to report in respect to the Iota (Wabash) Chapter of the Association would represent that they believe it expedient and just that the Iota Chapter should be continued and have a chance to regain its former prosperity. It would appear that though adversity had for the time clouded their prospects yet there are left some brave spirits who will prove themselves true to the trust placed in their keeping, and while we grieve that all who had enrolled themselves under the standard of the Iota had not proved true to the faith we most heartily and cordially approve of the course taken by those who now compose that chapter. We would further report that it is the opinion of this committee, that the constitution does not confer power upon any chapter to declare itself dissolved, therefore that Iota

Chapter never has been without the pale of the association no power being competent to place it in that situation except the Triennial Convention. We would therefore suggest the recognition of the power of that chapter under its present organization to dispose of those members who have left the chapter (thinking it dissolved) in such manner as their interests may demand.

T. S. PAYNE,
W. C. RANSOM,
R. W. SMITH,
Committee.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CATALOGUE.

1. The Committee report in favor of publishing a catalogue so arranged as to be intelligible only to members of the Association.

The expense to be borne by subscription.

The Presiding Chapter to collect and arrange the matter for publication.

2. The names to be arranged in alphabetical order. Affixed to these the chapter to which each individual belongs in three or five Greek characters; as follows, Geo. L. Becker $\kappa \zeta \Pi$, or W. C. Ransom $\Delta \Delta \zeta \Sigma \Xi$, the middle letter always indicating the chapter the other being gammon.

E. BUSHNELL,
W. C. RANSOM,
A. P. CARPENTER,
Committee.

THEODORE S. PAYNE, WESTERN RESERVE, TO SAMUEL S. LAWS
AND JOHN W. NOBLE, MIAMI.

BETA CHAPTER, BETA THETA PI,

WESTERN RESERVE COLLEGE, Sept. 25th, 1848.

After a long delay I forward to you the minutes of the Triennial convention. I have been absent since commencement, and have not been able to do this sooner. We had a glorious convention. We should have much liked to have seen you present. There were not as many here as we expected, but still they were all fine, first-best, A. No. 1. We could not have wished a more glorious time. The Jefferson and the Indiana chapters were not represented. We do not know how to account for this.

The delegate from Danville is a fine fellow; if he is a good representative of that whole chapter, they "can take the cakes." He is "one of 'em." I had a letter from Danville last week; that chapter bids fair to be one of the brightest stars in the galaxy. How does old Miami flourish? and the Alpha chapter? Is there any prospect of the chapter ever again reaching its former position? I truly hope that it may do so. Keep up good courage. "Good times are coming, boys—wait a little longer." How do you like the plan of publishing a catalogue? I think it a fine idea; it *ought* to be done immediately. Our term has but just commenced; we cannot tell yet what the prospects are for new Greeks. We are on the look out for "some." Will you please send me a catalogue of your institution? I mean to get a catalogue of the institutions in which the several chapters are located, if possible. I must write but a few lines as I wish to forward you these documents immediately, by today's mail. Please write and inform me of the condition of your chapter. Regards of the Beta to the Alpha.

ALONZO P. CARPENTER, WILLIAMS, TO CHARLES BECKWITH,
MICHIGAN.

WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS., November 6, 1848.

The three months I find are almost expired and yet I have not made the least progress towards finishing my quota of the

· initiatory address. It was with the greatest reluctance that I undertook the part assigned me in that matter feeling my *natural incapacity*, and fearing physical inability to perform my duty within the required time, and intended to commence the work as soon as I arrived home—but immediately on my arrival I was taken sick and for six weeks was unable to write, read, or to do anything at all.

This is the apology I have to offer for not fulfilling my appointment, I have just returned to college and find myself “full of business” enough having some eight or ten back examinations to make up before the end of the term.

I visited Boston a few days since to see about getting up an engraving for the catalogue. I went to an old and experienced designer and set him to work, explaining to him what we wanted. If he suits us in the design at his first trial we can have the engraving in the course of a few months say two or three. The whole cost will be not far from \$200.00. The engraving will be done by the “New England Bank Note Engraving Company” and we need have no fears but it will be done in the very best style. As the cost is to be defrayed by voluntary contribution, and as it will be necessary to pay our designer some \$20, as soon as he has completed the design (provided his first effort proves satisfactory) I wish you, or some one of your chapter, would take measures to procure subscriptions as soon as possible. I shall send the design to your chapter as soon as I receive it (in course of a few days) for your approval.

I have received a letter from a young man in Brown University with whom I have long been acquainted by *reputation only*—in answer to some inquiries of mine, which I enclose, I do this in order to get your advice in regard to a project we have in view—which is to initiate students there *as members of our own chapter*—to be governed by our by laws and to be in every sense a “part and parcel” in other words a branch of this chapter. This of course we as a chapter *have a right* to do. And it will obviate all difficulties with President Wayland and also spare us the trouble of going through all the tedious formality—as fixed by the Convention, of procuring the consent of all the chapters. We wish the advice of your Chapter on this point—for we would do nothing hastily.

FROM THEODORE S. PAYNE, WESTERN RESERVE, TO J. W. NOBLE,
MIAMI.

BETA, OF BETA THETA PI.

WESTERN RESERVE COLLEGE, Jan. 6, 1849.

Your favor of November 15th came some time since. I meant to have answered it sooner, but have delayed to the present moment. I assure you, it gave us much grief to hear of the condition of our *Mother* Alpha; and, at the same time, much consolation to see that the Greeks had done their duty. You have most certainly passed through a desperate struggle, and it seems that the Beta blood has proven herself victor. Glory to old Alpha, says her daughter Beta. As long as there is a single drop of blood in her veins, so long will Beta respect, reverence, and cherish the deepest love for her. "Wait, a little longer, there is a good time coming." That is my doctrine. I believe the day will yet come when we shall see the Alpha Chapter far above its present unfortunate position. With *such a noble* remnant, we may reasonably expect great success for the future. Use your utmost to sustain it—though not to the injury or disrepute of the Beta cause. Better have no chapter than one that we would not be proud of. Our chapter, placing the utmost confidence in your judgment regarding this matter, bids you God-speed in your endeavors to resuscitate her decrepit mother.

I am now collecting names for the catalogue; will you please send me a *list* of your members from the organization of the chapter up to the present time, with their *residence* and *date of graduation*? At the special convention, held in Cincinnati in the spring of 1847, you will see by the minutes that several chapters were declared defunct, and their lists of members transferred to your chapter; they were the Cincinnati, Athens, and Harvard chapters. You will please send a list of these, also. We want to hurry along the catalogue as fast as possible. I have sent to all the chapters for such a list, and am waiting returns. I should think that we might get it out next summer, and will do the best *we can* to hurry it along.

The Beta chapter flourishes finely—our prospects are very flattering. The chapters seem to be all flourishing. I sent you a catalogue of our institution a day or two since. They are but

just out or I should have sent one before. You will see that the classes are *small*—but they are *mighty*. This W. R. C. seems to be unfortunate in regard to numbers. I think her *deserving* of many more than she has. Poverty stares her in the face terribly just now. They are making a strong effort to permanently endow the institution. If they succeed, I think it will prosper much better. A great many students leave here during the first two years. Our class numbered 22 when *Fresh*—Oh! Was I ever a *Freshman*?—so the catalogue says, and we are now but *thirteen*! But we make up in quality what we lack in quantity. *Well, we do*. The *girls* think so at least, and you know that they ought to know. The girls in Hudson are all Betas of the real, genuine stamp. The *Alpha* brethren “can’t come in”—“they ain’t good-looking”—so they remain outside and look on. The *Alphas* have a pretty good chapter here, I will grant that, but still they are in the back-ground. They *out-number* us now, but that don’t trouble us; we *out-general* them once in a while, I *guess*. We have just got a *Soph*—a grand, first-rate fellow—whom they had been working for, with might and main, “*vi et armis*,” but they couldn’t come it. We get pretty much all whom we *choose*. Beta stock is pretty scarce here now—“some more expected soon.” But I must close this dull epistle with a request that you will write me often—I will do my duty in replying. Please send the list *immediately*, if possible.

The very best wishes of the Beta to the Alpha, and of her Recorder to yourself.

THEODORE S. PAYNE, WESTERN RESERVE, TO JOHN W. NOBLE,
MIAMI

BETA CHAPTER, BETA THETA PI,
HUDSON, O., February 22, 1849.

I have within a short time received two letters from you, the first contained a list of your members, the second in reference to the establishment of a chapter in Farmers' College. You have the consent of our chapter. I suppose it really belongs to the presiding chapter to collect the votes of the several chapters upon establishing a new chapter. But I must ask you to do this at the present time. I have had so much writing to attend

to in reference to the catalogue that I cannot conveniently find time to do this. I have done nothing but write for the last six months, collecting the lists of members from the several chapters and corresponding with the Williams chapter in relation to the catalogue, and I do not feel as if I could sit down and again write to all the chapters. And I presume you will be able to do this much better than I, as you are acquainted with the particulars in the case. I hope a good chapter may be opened there. You will please inform me when you have located this chapter, and give me the name of the Recorder. Did you know R. E. Stratton, who was formerly at Farmers' College? I met him at Madison last spring, and liked him very much indeed. He was a Beta soul and hand. I don't know whether you keep up correspondence with the respective chapters or not. I will give you the names of the several Recorders.

A. P. Carpenter, Recorder of Williams Chapter, Williamstown, Mass.

Chas. Beckwith, Recorder of Michigan Chapter, Ann Arbor, Michigan University.

A. M. Reid, Recorder of Jefferson Coll., Canonsburg, Pa.

David L. McDill, Recorder of Centre College, Danville, Ky.

Isaac R. Hitt, Recorder of Asbury University, Greencastle, Ia.

I don't know anything about the Bloomington Chapter, Ind. We have not heard from them for two years. So you need not write to them. Neither will it be necessary for you to write to Wabash College, as Collins (the only member of that chapter) is absent. I have not yet heard from Brown University, so you need not write there.

The above five are all, I believe, that you need to write to. If the Bloomington chapter don't take sufficient interest in the association to write to us, we need not consult them when about to establish chapters.

D. J. Glazier is the name that was given me as Recorder at Brown University; I wrote to him a long time ago, and as yet have heard nothing. If you think best, (and perhaps on the whole you better) you can write to such a person. There can be no question as to the safety of it, as Carpenter gave me the name.

I write in great haste, wishing this to go out to-day. Please

write as soon as you can ascertain the prospects. I expect to write again in a few days in relation to the catalogue. Farewell till then.

GEORGE MOORE, WILLIAMS, TO CHARLES BECKWITH, MICHIGAN.

WILLIAMSTOWN, May 16, 1849.

Though I know you not by sight nor by correspondence yet as a Beta I send this token across the states that our chapter may renew the correspondence which has been broken off for some time past not with your chapter merely but with almost all. A. P. Carpenter has vacated the seat of Recorder which he has for so long a time occupied, and now I have undertaken to take not fill, his place. How well I shall do what I have to do will depend upon the kind of fellows I have to deal with. I hope however that you will try to keep up the correspondence as well as possible.

There is no news of importance at present and we are doing nothing at all except as individuals. Vacation passes quickly away and at such a time you ought not expect anything of any connection with the business matters of the Betas here.

In regard to the catalogue however, having understood that some of you Western fellows were grumbling about the expense, and seeing that without unanimity we could effect nothing, we, of course, shall do nothing about the matter for the present, trusting however that the time will come when things and members will be more encouraging than they have been hitherto in this abortive attempt at getting up a catalogue which should reflect honor upon the Brotherhood to which we claim the privilege of belonging. So you see the thing is "squashed" for a want of whole-heartedness in some of the chapters. I trust that the charge falls not upon the members of the B @ II, at Ann Arbor.

Some of our men have appointments on the Commencement Stage, only one has an honor *viz.*, John Bascom. We and all the class expected that Beals would take one but we are disappointed. All four too are elected to represent the societies at the Adelphic Union Exhibition in July. The only man we have in the Freshman class, has been elected to speak at the prize Rhetorical Exercise evening before commencement.

We have not heard from the new chapter at Brown. Glazier does not write to any body, I believe my soul. He ought to be "put through" in our opinion.

GEORGE MOORE, WILLIAMS, TO H. H. POWERS, MICHIGAN.

WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS., February 2, 1850.

The communication seems somewhat broken between our chapters. A letter from Brother Wood written last November reached us in proper time, but my chum was careless enough to say nothing about the fact until I came back at the end of this last vacation, an interval of some six or eight weeks. Such is my apology, but the evil often unconsciously goes deeper than apologies can accompany.

As you have not heard from us since last July it might be expected that we should have much to communicate. But frequency alone gives some interest to correspondence, and since we have lost that, we must proportionately shorten our information. For information without interest is worse than none. But the chief thing always is our progress. Since I last wrote we have initiated the following as members:

Arthur L. Perry, Lynn, N. H.; William Clark, N. H., now at Amherst College; I. S. Bachelder, Needham, Mass.; Henry M. Hazeltine, New York.

We now number eleven members, ten of our chapter and one from Brown. The Brown followers may well speak of their success, for they have done nobly. We have not heard from them of late.

We received a request some time since from Hampden-Sidney College, Va., to have a chapter founded there. I suppose you received the same. We were not greatly pleased with the project, and yet for aught we know a chapter may do well there. But we have so many children before they are fully grown, it seems to be a matter for compassion to decide whether we shall cause so much trouble, unless we are pretty sure that the progeny will be sound and flourishing. We should be glad to establish another chapter in New England if we could find good encouragement, but the ground seems preoccupied.

Has your chapter been expelled from the college? We have

understood that the Secret Society men had been expelled from the University of Michigan, and the Chi Psi tell us that all their brethren have been expelled. We look with interest to tidings from you, and we hope that we shall know that you are preserved and that the Beta Ship still outrides the storm.

HENRY M. HAZELTINE, WILLIAMS, TO WILLIAM A. MOORE,
MICHIGAN.

WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS., May 2nd, 1850.

A communication from H. H. Powers together with your letter of the 25th ult., have been placed in my hands to answer, owing to the absence of our Recorder, and of several of the other members of the chapter. And though I may not be able to interest you as much as our excellent Recorder would have done, still I hope that you will be willing to hear from any member of the glorious B Θ II, even if he be a stranger. The term closed on Tuesday last and this will account for the absence of some of our members, but Moore went home several days before the close of the term on account of sickness. His health was very poor, he having injured himself as many of us think, by want of exercise. We have heard from him but once since he left us; and that was immediately after his arrival at home, when his health was about the same as it was when he left here. We all hope that he will regain good health, and be able to return at the beginning of the term.

The term closed here with an exhibition of the Junior class, but owing to the absence of George Moore our Society was not represented. The exhibition passed off very well and we were very sorry that the "Greek" was not there to "bear away the palm" as he undoubtedly would have done, not only in our opinion but also according to the judgment of others. You will probably notice two of our "quandam" members upon the schedule of the exhibition, which I send with this letter. A schedule of the Junior Exhibition at Hudson was also received at the same time with yours, but as it was not accompanied with a letter we can only guess how the "Greeks" acquitted themselves there, but we can very well judge that we have no reason for fear on their account.

Becker, one of the Alpha Deltas, of whom you speak in your letter, after having remained here some time in suspense and expense, and having become somewhat acquainted, and accustomed to Williamstown, was at length informed by the faculty that he could not be admitted. He then went to Amherst and tried to obtain an admittance but was unsuccessful, and at last obtained a resting place at Union College. I became somewhat acquainted with Becker while he was here and liked him very much. I obtained from him for a few hours a copy of the Reply to the Faculty's Report which I thought was rather "down" on the Faculty's Report. By the way the copy of the reply which you said you would forward with your letter has not been received as yet. Perhaps you did not send it immediately and on this account has not yet come.

I will now say a few words in regard to the welfare, etc., of the Theta (Williams) chapter, and as I do not know how far George Moore has kept you posted in regard to us, I may write you that as news, with which you are already acquainted, and if I do I beg to be excused.

In the first place I will say that we are prospering, which is indeed to be expected from every chapter of the B Θ Π, and I hope is the case with all, but I must confess that I do not know how the case stands with some of the chapters, as for instance the Alpha, Epsilon and Eta chapters, from which there does not appear to be any recent correspondence and in fact there is none at all from the "E" chapter. They for all that I, or any of our members here know, may be *defunct*, and if you know anything about them I wish you would write and send the names of the Recorders.

We at present number ten members, all good and true, and, above all, all united. We have as yet taken none from the Freshman class, for several reasons, the chief of which is that there were none to take. We have however our eye upon one, a fine fellow from the State of Ohio. We intend to take good care of him this vacation according to the recommendation of his Socii Brethren, who little think that we may yet "take care of him with a vengeance!" He is one of the Socii, but is not pleased with that society, (if such a motley crew can be called a society) and likes our members and our objects so far as they have been ex-

plained to him. Still there is some doubt as to our obtaining him as some of the best men in his class with whom he is much associated are strong Socii. We are also keeping a sharp lookout for "Sub-Freshmen" that is, for those who will enter next fall. We are acquainted with some fine fellows, who intend to enter next fall.

We are at present engaged in securing a good and convenient room and one that shall be adapted to our wants, for we are at present almost *homeless*. We are about making a bargain for a room that we think will suit us, and as it will cost something to fix and fit it, we are striving diligently to "raise the wind." Though our room may not be everything we wish in its dimensions yet we intend that it shall be right in every other respect.

A. D. STOWELL, WESTERN RESERVE, TO MILFORD RUDISILL,
INDIANA ASBURY.

HUDSON, O., April 3d, 1852.

In reply to yours of Feb. 23d, addressed to Brother Fitch, permit me to introduce myself as Recorder of the Beta chapter of the beloved Beta Theta Pi association. In the absence of testimonials to my good moral character, intellectual abilities or good looks, allow me to say that I am not remarkable for either. And yet I can but trust that the fact that this chapter have conferred upon me the honor of Recordership will have not a little influence to win your notice. At least it will be a recommendation of my good character. As to intellectual abilities why, they are decidedly not to be boasted of. And about good looks, I am about six to one and half a dozen to the other between good and bad, being withal ugly (in the ladies' esteem) not at all handsome (in my own). About five feet ten in boots, neither as corpulent as Falstaff, nor our Prex., nor yet so lean, lank, lantern-jawed as some I know of, in dress, adorned only by the beautiful badge of our glorious society—in short a humble, unsophisticated individual of no particular consequence to anybody's happiness except my own and that of—whom?

But I leave these personalities and will turn to more agreeable themes. The Beta chapter sends you a right brotherly greeting. We beg leave to assure you that it was with the utmost

pleasure we listened to your fraternal letter of February last. We congratulate you upon your prosperity and bid you onward and upward. We are happy to report ourselves too in a flourishing condition. We number now as follows: Albert Fitch, senior; D. J. Gilbert, A. W. Knowlton, A. D. Stowell, juniors; L. W. Ford, Elizur Wolcott, sophomores; and D. Fitch, freshman.

In addition are Tutors Doggett and Palmer, W. C. Turner (Principal of the Grammar School) and Dr. Payne, who (excepting Dr. Payne) regularly attend our meetings. President Pierce is also a member by election. They are all good and true—all blameless in moral character and some of them decidedly superior scholars. Palmer was Valedictorian of his class (Doggett third in same class) and is, on the testimony of the opposite secret and literary societies, the most finished scholar and a gentleman of the most intellectual worth, that ever graduated from this institution. You are doubtless aware of the existence of a chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa society in this college and are acquainted with its regulations for membership. A. Fitch and Stowell have been elected members. Ford and D. Fitch are at present first in their respective classes. Wolcott is among the best—third. You will be gratified, I trust, to know that we have so good a moral and literary character in our institution and will not charge me with vanity in making these statements. Our rival society, the Alpha Delta Phi, numbers one Tutor, two Seniors, two Juniors. They have not a member in the other classes though they probably will have two freshmen, whom relationship will induce to join that society. There is also here another opposition society though not a rival—the Anti-Secret Confederation alias Equitable Fraternity, (better Inequitable Fraternity), ostensibly loving the light but in fact working in the dark and doing most dirty work too. With a few exceptions they number the rabble. They introduced themselves here a year ago, at that time taking all who had failed in their endeavors to get into one of the Secret Societies (and several had tried and failed)—and both then and now scooping all kinds into their net. They far excel in numbers, but are a miscellany of misrepresentation or misconception. I do not emphasize “moral” quite as much as I do the other adjective for the students here now are very generally of good moral character. Be kind enough to write me

soon either yourself or your successor, to whom please introduce me as a Greek. I shall be happy to write and receive letters from you every month, if pleasing to you. Indeed, it seems to me we ought, for the interests of the chapters to interchange letters as often as once a month. Will you gratify me by sending me a catalogue of your institution. I mail one of Western Reserve College to yourself today.

A. D. STOWELL, WESTERN RESERVE, TO A. C. JUNKIN, MIAMI.

HUDSON, O., April 10th, 1852.

Mr. Palmer has handed me a letter from yourself announcing the reorganization of the Miami chapter of the Beta Theta Pi. I snatch a moment from the accumulated labors of a preparation for junior exhibition, to reply briefly. We are truly happy to hear from the Miami chapter. It *has* been a glorious chapter. You do not state that your chapter has been lately re-organized but simply organized. Will you be kind enough, sir, to inform us particularly of the history of the Miami chapter since our mutual correspondence was dropped, and the manner of your recent organization, and by whom? I do not find upon our catalogue of the Miami chapter the name of either of the gentlemen you mention, and this is the reason why I desire, if it be your pleasure, a fuller narrative. Be assured, sir, we shall be happy to hear a detail, however prolix, of the Miami chapter during the long period of her virtual "to us at least" decease.

The Triennial convention recognized the existence still of the Miami chapter, although that chapter sent no delegates. The minutes of the convention would fill several pages, which I must beg you to relieve me from transcribing until after exhibition which will occur on April 14th. It was an assembly of whole-souled Betas, talented, honorable and true, who enjoyed two days of fraternal interchange of good cheer, and separated with hearts glowing for the good cause of fraternization. The address was publicly delivered and publicly received, as a very superior production. The author, in reply to a request for a copy for publication, desired that it might not be published at present.

Pins cost from — to —. I will learn in a day or two the best place to procure them. The catalogue is progressing.

Our fraternal greeting to your chapter, and let us hear from you *immediately*, if possible. I was informed that the chapter of the Alpha Delta Phi in your university is defunct. Is that the fact? And are there any other secret societies with you?

I write in haste for this day's mail. As letters can pass so rapidly between us, you will permit me to subscribe myself until I hear from you again.

A. D. STOWELL, WESTERN RESERVE, TO A. C. JUNKIN, MIAMI.

HUDSON, O., May 1st, 1852.

I acknowledge the receipt of your letter giving details of the reorganization of the Miami chapter, for which please accept the thanks of the Beta chapter. Of those whom you name as present at the revival of your chapter, I have heard R. V. Moore mentioned as a sterling Greek. There are many such among the alumni of your institution.

In accordance with your request, I send you an account of the proceedings of the Triennial Convention. I abridge from the minutes. I suppose the presiding chapter will furnish you a verbatim copy—at least if you request it. The presiding chapter for the present triennium is the Gamma chapter, at Jefferson College, Canonsburg, Pa. Their present recorder is F. L. Stewart, whom I have informed of your reorganization.

The Triennial Convention met at Pittsburg, at 7 P. M., August 7th, 1851, and was opened by an eloquent address from our fellow-member, Jacob Winters, A. M. "A large number of invited guests were present," who evinced their approbation of the orator's effort by the profoundest attention while present, and afterwards by unbounded praise. On Thursday morning the convention was permanently organized. The president, H. S. Martin, Esq., on taking the chair, greeted the delegates in a brief, yet appropriate and felicitous address. The thanks of the convention were voted to Bro. Winters for his able address, and a committee appointed to solicit a copy for publication. Mr. Winters, however, declined allowing it to be published. The president read a report relative to the condition of the chapters, and making suggestions as to the business to come before the convention, which report was referred to committees. The Committee on Initiation

reported against any uniform form of initiating members. The convention adopted the report, recommending also to each chapter to adopt for itself a form suitable to its own circumstances. The Committee on the Constitution reported the following amendment of the constitution and form of initiation: "I solemnly promise that if at any time my connection with the Beta Theta Pi be dissolved, I will never reveal anything of the nature, objects, or business of the association," which was adopted.

The Committee on Catalogue reported, "That a catalogue of the members of the association should be published, as soon as the necessary arrangements can possibly be made," and in good style. The report defines at length its features. The business of publication is left with the presiding chapter. Adopted.

The Committee on Constitution reported an additional *sign of recognition*; not, however, to be used in ordinary intercourse, lest it be observed.

The convention resolved upon the judicious extension of the association, *mainly at the West*; that a history of each chapter be read at each triennial. The convention recommended that each chapter entrust its recordership to its best men—such men as they would wish to stand anywhere as their representatives—that each Recorder preserve a copy of all official letters he writes and file those he receives.

Resolved, That the next triennial be held in 1854, time and place to be designated by the Delta Chapter, and in case it be unable to hold it, the chapter at Danville to designate.

A committee was appointed to prepare an address to the chapters not represented. After several votes of thanks, &c., among which a puff in the city papers, to mine host of the St. Charles Hotel, and after the most perfect unanimity on the part of the members during the sitting of the convention, the convention adjourned on the 9th of August.

You ask about pins. The price varies as the jewel inserted. The general form of all is the same. There was a change made a few years ago in the style of the pin. It used to be, I think, very nearly a right angled parallelogram. Its present form has its sides indented with segments of circles. We purchase them of Brown & Kirby, dealers in watches and jewelry, No. 76 Chapel street, New Haven, Conn., to whom we enclose in a letter what-

ever sum we wish to invest in a pin, and they send us a pin of the specified value. They enclose the pin in a paper box, and forward by mail. Send them your name to be engraved on the back of the pin. I understand that the Gamma (Jefferson Coll.) Chapter have their pins manufactured at Pittsburg, though I have never seen any made there.

The number of chapters at present is six—Alpha (your own), Beta (in this college), Gamma (Jefferson college), Delta (Asbury University, Greencastle, Ind.), Zeta (Michigan University), Iota (Centre College, Danville, Ky.), Lambda (Hampden Sidney College, Va.) The Recorder of the Asbury Chapter is M. B. Rudisill. The names of the Recorders of the other chapters for the present year I am unable to give. I have already named F. L. Stewart, as the Recorder of Gamma chapter.

It is the duty of the presiding chapter to answer all inquiries from the other chapters; and although I should be happy to give you all the information I possess in reference to our glorious association, Stewart is much better able to gratify you in this respect. I have just entered upon my duties as Recorder, and am somewhat green yet.

We are flourishing finely here. We have among our members the best men and best scholars of the institution in which we are located—but more hereafter.

Be kind enough to send me a list of your members, beginning with R. V. Moore. Also their residences.

I send you a catalogue of W. R. C. Please exchange, and mark the different societies—rather designate to what society each gentleman belongs. Let me hear from you soon. We desire to keep up a regular and frequent correspondence—at least once a month.

JOHN D. DURHAM, INDIANA ASBURY, TO A. C. JUNKIN, MIAMI.

DELTA CHAPTER, BETA THETA PI,
GREEN CASTLE, I. A. U., May 18th, 1852.

How long it has been since this chapter was in correspondence with yours, I am unable to find out. A few days since I received a letter from Bro. Stewart of the Gamma chapter informing me that you were recorder of the

Miami chapter. Brother Hitt was the last recorder that received anything from you, and I am not confident that he did. Nothing could so much gratify me, or encourage the brethren here as to receive some news—some sign that the Alpha chapter is still ready to grasp the Delta by the hand and renew the pledge of eternal — and —. However prosperous our condition may be, at present it matters not, for we want sympathy in prosperity, as well as when we are downhearted. For three months have I been recorder, and not a line have I received, except from Bro. Stewart. It would appear that we Hoosiers have become isolated strangers among friends, left to fight our way in an unnoticed and unimportant part of the field.

None of the chapters, while, I have no doubt, they are holding a lively correspondence with all others, appear to have any regard for us, or the fate that may meet us in this barbarian wilderness. If you write to any of them, *tell them we will fight bravely*—will die facing the enemy, rather than surrender! I cannot tell whether you know anything of our condition or not, at least I will give you a slight sketch of it. Last year a rival sprang up, which threatened to crush us by out-numbering. It is feebly struggling on with an incubus of sixty worthless members on its shoulders, some of whom snarl and snap like curs, others growl, while the majority do nothing. Their attempts at intrigue are met and well met with open handed honesty that often boxes a ringing reproof upon their ears.

We appeared for a time to have lost the esteem of the faculty, on account of the slanders that were poured in upon us from all quarters, but if we have not already regained it, we are rapidly doing so. Our members compose what may be emphatically called the picked and choice boys of the college, and this impression has gone abroad even among the ladies.

One of the professors, you are aware perhaps, belongs to our association, Wm. C. Larrabee, and he is unquestionably the finest one among them. The others have generally been opposed to us, no doubt on account of the preference shown to him. But this opposition is well nigh abated. Our motto is, "The Constitution," and firmly do we adhere to its precepts. 'Tis the nucleus around which clings the strongest associations of our college life, those that will dwell longest and most sweetly in the echoes of memory.

Let me introduce myself to you, in the name of the chapter, as a true Greek, a lover of fun and of ladies' company, in my twentieth year, and likely to live until I die—that is, I am a hale chap. Our members at present are as follows:

JOHN D. CHESTNUT, Senior.

JOHN S. TARKINGTON, Senior.

M. B. RUDISILL, Senior.

JOHN DURHAM, Senior.

D. O. DALY, Junior.

E. E. EDWARDS, Junior.

JOHN HITT, Junior.

NOAH ALLISON, Sophomore.

J. W. GUNN, Freshman.

Also T. T. WEIR, Prep.

Besides these we have John Hanna and James M. Shields, resident graduates, one studying law, the other medicine, Dr. Lynch, J. C. Turk (a graduate of Farmers' College, Ohio), and Rev. Mr. Oviatt, of Hudson Chapter, residents of the town.

We would be glad to hear from you immediately upon the receipt of this. Please show the interest your chapter takes in ours, Brother Junkin, by answering without much delay, and in my next I promise to write a much better and more interesting epistle than the present. Please give me the names of the Williams College and Brown University Recorders, or is this latter passed away? Tell me how you prosper since your temporary failure.

Permit me to add in a postscript that our chapter is very anxious for the publication of a catalogue, and wish you, in your correspondence with other chapters, and also with ours, to urge the matter to a point at once, as it is intimately connected with our interests. Our love and best hopes to Alpha.

F. L. STEWART, JEFFERSON, TO A. C. JUNKIN, MIAMI.

JEFFERSON COLLEGE, CANONSBURG, PA.,

June 3rd, 1852.

It is wholly unnecessary for me to attempt to de-

scribe the pleasure and satisfaction with which the arrival of your letter was greeted by this chapter. The resuscitation of the Miami chapter, the old "Alpha," once the fountain head of Betaism, is an event which to us was as gratifying as it was unexpected. The information we had received, previous to the arrival of your letter, had led us to suppose that our prospects at Oxford were, to say the least, rather *slim*. The sudden advent of "Rip Van Winkle" in his native village, after his long *nap*, certainly could not have been more unlooked for than the waking up at Miami. We hail it as an omen of future prosperity and success, and most cordially extend our friendly greetings and hail you as brothers. I take this first opportunity to answer your letter. I say first, because circumstances have conspired hitherto to prevent it; my absence from college prevented me from securing the letter until a late date. I enclose you a copy of the minutes of the last Triennial Convention; list of the Recorders and the names of the present members of this chapter. I have also the pleasure of informing you of the birth of a new chapter at the University of N. Carolina, at Chapel Hill. It was founded by Wm. F. Green, one of our old members. I suppose you have had the particulars about it from brother Stowell, of Hudson. I give you their names and that of their Recorders. They number now but five, but expect to increase their list next season to twelve or fourteen.

JUNIUS I. SCALES,
JOHN S. MOREHEAD,
N. E. SCALES,

GEO. N. THOMPSON,
K. M. MURCHISON, (Rec.

Lenox Castle, N. C.
Greensboro, N. C.
Eagle Falls, N. C.
Seasburg, N. C.
Fayetteville, N. C.

The Recorders of the other chapters are as follows:

I. A. University, Greencastle, Ind., John Durham.
Hampden-Sidney College, Thomas Wharey.
Hudson, A. D. Stowell.
Centre College, Danville, Ky., Geo. W. Buchanan.

Buchanan is not now the regular Recorder at Danville; he wrote to me some time ago stating that a change has been made in the recordership there, but he neglected to give us the *name*

of his successor. This, though the first, is the last letter you will receive from me in my official capacity.

My successor is Mr. Alfred Pearson. You will find him, I think, an attentive correspondent. I have to regret that our acquaintance will be broken off before it has fairly commenced. During the time in which I have been honored by this chapter with the recordship, I have spent some of the happiest moments of my life.

There is a pleasure in holding communion of spirit and interchange of sympathy with those of congenial feelings and kindred hearts, which none but those who have experienced it can appreciate. In a short time I will leave forever these pleasant scenes, but the remembrance of my college days will ever be fresh and green. I hope your correspondence may be pleasant.

Our chapter here is at present in a very prosperous condition—we number nine members, who are all of the *pure grit*. We have one rival, the Phi Gamma Delta, which, however, is hardly worthy the name. None of the *faculty* at present are members, though they all are disposed to look upon the chapter with indulgence, if not favor.

In what light are secret societies regarded at Oxford? I have the pleasure of being acquainted with Prof. Elliott. I attended the University in Pittsburgh while he was Professor there. How does he succeed at Miami? I think he is an excellent man. He has some traits of character decidedly *Greekish*, though I don't know what his opinions are respecting secret associations.

Write soon. We will be pleased to hear from you at any time; whether sorrowing or rejoicing, you have our sympathy.

The following is a list of our members in actual attendance:

ROBERT K. CAMPBELL, Senior,	Washington Co., Pa.
JOHN H. CLARK, Senior,	Schellsburg, Bedford Co., Pa.
F. L. STEWART, Senior,	Murrysville, Westmore- land, Co., Pa.
JOHN W. SUTHERLAND, Junior,	Ashland, Ohio.
D. H. SCOTT, Junior,	Hayesville, Ohio.
ALFRED PEARSON, Junior,	Harrisburg, Pa.
I. NEWTON HIMES, Junior,	Shippensburg, Pa.

C. T. JAMIESON, Soph.,
 Jos. L. BITNER, Soph.,

Sing Sing, N. Y.
 Cumberland Co., Pa.

In addition to these we have Dr. John Weaver and R. Leatherman, residents here, who attend our meetings regularly.

JOHN D. DURHAM, INDIANA ASBURY, TO A. C. JUNKIN, MIAMI.

DELTA CHAPTER, BETA THETA PI,
 GREENCASTLE, I. A. U., June 16th, '52.

Yours of the 10th was received with no little pleasure, as it was the first time we had heard from Alpha for many a dark and uncertain day. But as her sun—our sun—has again risen, we will enjoy her beams gratefully, oblivious, as it were, that she ever for a moment ceased to cheer her system. Seeing that we are in the same fix as yourself, *i. e.*, preparing for commencement, our correspondence will not tire you.

Your letter to Brother Rudisill was received before I wrote, but I had not seen it. My remarks in reference to our *scarcity* of correspondence, I think, were rather general than strictly applicable to you. We had very little of it, but I have at length aroused all to feel a sympathy for their Hoosier brethren.

Your enemies, *I am glad to hear*, are in the field. Without enemies the *truths* of our order have no fight. Without fight there is no life and animation. Well I am aware that *purse-proud aristocrat toadies* are not the kind that Beta seeks for her household, and yet the aristocracy in *soul* have ever been the stamina of which she was built. Not that *wealth* is an *objection*, but that it is no recommendation.

The third society which you mention is, I suppose, somewhat similar to one which started here last year, called the *Philosonians*, whose *express* object it was to *break down, uproot*, or otherwise exterminate the Greeks. Brother Junkin, will you make diligent inquiry after their name, badge, &c., and let us see if we cannot identify the two. The one here numbers all the *rabble* and *ragtag* of the college, together with some fine fellows. Their object is to kill us by *outnumbering* us. Pshaw! *What cannot* the Grecian phalanx do among barbarians? Their badge is a *brass plate* in the *shape* of a heart, on which is written, "Philosonian," the heart surrounded by enamelling of black *cotton* velvet.

The name of the Recorder at Danville is T. H. Urmston.

We were not informed of the intention of the Gamma chapter to establish a chapter at Chapel Hill, but give our cordial consent, as such improvements must ever be agreeable when judiciously carried out. Did I not give you the names of our members in present attendance? Such was my intention at least, and I will at all events mark them on the list that I send you, according to your request. The catalogue which you promised to send has not yet been received. You will receive one of ours in a short time—the Betas marked—which, by the way, will avert the necessity of marking them on the list. As for the prospect of establishing chapters in our State, I think it poor. Two have failed at two of the leading institutions—one at Wabash College—on account of the virulence of the faculty; the other, at State University, failed from the *lethargy* of its members. The prospects for Illinois are better, and give good hopes of a rich success.

We have no “celebration” or “supper” this year, and should be *immensely* glad if our time, or the state of a “last session’s” funds would permit. Next year will be *our* joyous time, and right merrily and heartily will we enjoy it. But the “faculty” have said that we shall have no more exhibitions in the college chapel, and I suppose that we will be compelled to get some church, for *have* them we *will*, biennially. The chapter met last night, but nothing of a business nature occurred, except the reading of your letter, and one from Brother Urmston, of Iota.

I have written to Chapel Hill Chapter (N. C.) at a venture. I hope we may find those warm blooded southerners good *Betas*. Our commencement is on the 15th of July. Several of the *alumni* Betas will be on hand, and we anticipate a glorious time. My reason for writing was the proximity of long vacation, and I would that we all have a knowledge of our several positions before the year closes. Perhaps some chapters might be established during vacation rambles. The matter ought at least to be thought about. Try to give us another letter before commencement.

A. D. STOWELL, WESTERN RESERVE, TO JOHN S. DUNHAM, INDIANA ASBURY.

CLEVELAND, O., July 12th, 1852.

I do not write you as recorder but simply as a friend and

brother. I ought to have written you an official letter long ago, and indeed should have done so, but for ill health. But no apologies.

I was happy to learn from yours of June 2d that the spirit of the Greeks is yet alive and active in Asbury. Let us write and talk about this matter of extension, mutually advise and propose, and mature some plan, before we do very much. I had one favorite project of which you have been informed *viz*: to plant a chapter in Hanover. B. Pearson, the present recorder of the Gamma wrote me just before our commencement last week, saying that all the chapters except two had signified their entire approbation and earnest desire for extension in that quarter. But brother Palmer thinks it would not be right and of course not expedient for him to assume that those chapters will coincide in the desire of the other chapters. We all feel quite sure that he would not be censured should he proceed without hearing from them. And yet I suppose it is better to act very cautiously. The present is a good opportunity, but we will hope for another.

You seem to be flourishing like pigs weed, and full of hope for the future. I wish I could tell so good a story for ourselves. I can only say that our prospects are fair. Our college is in rather a precarious condition just now. Two of our professors having a great deal better offers elsewhere are more than half persuaded to leave. Efforts are being made to retain them. If they leave the institution will suffer much for the present. But we hope for the best. More anon.

I am on my way home to Elmira, N. Y. Let me hear from you soon. I shall be absent two months nearly. Our vacation continues ten weeks. A letter from you shall receive a cordial welcome.

I am quite unwell and I know I am not writing anything of interest—so amen.

CHAPTER VII.

FROM THE REVIVAL OF THE MIAMI CHAPTER TO THE REVIVAL OF THE MICHIGAN CHAPTER.

At the adjournment of the convention of 1851 the Fraternity was at its lowest ebb. There were but five chapters in existence, of these *Beta* at Western Reserve, *Gamma* at Jefferson and *Delta* at Asbury were fairly prosperous, and *Iota* at Centre and *Lambda* at Hampden Sidney were not doing badly but they were small and young. *Gamma* at Jefferson was the Presiding chapter until the convention of 1854.

The Alpha chapter at Miami was revived in April 1852. April 28, 1852, a chapter was established at the University of North Carolina by William F. Green of the Jefferson chapter and was called Eta (the name of the inactive chapter at Wabash). In the fall of 1852 Western Reserve College was in a bad condition, many of the students left and the Beta chapter became reduced to one member (David Fitch). In March, 1853 James H. Hills; a student at Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio, was initiated by the Miami chapter in order to establish a chapter at his college and he did so the following month, the chapter being given the name of Theta (the name of the inactive Williams chapter). In May, 1853 a chapter was established at Hanover College and called Epsilon (the name of the inactive Indiana chapter). Early in 1854 the chapter at Ohio University was revived and given the name of Kappa (the name of the inactive Brown chapter. It will be remembered that it had been called Delta from 1841 to 1847, when it became inactive).

In June, 1854, the Michigan chapter was revived. Its name Zeta given to it by the convention of 1848, had in some way after the convention of 1851, been given to the Hampden-Sidney chapter and the Michigan chapter took the name of Lambda under which name it had been originally established in 1845.

E. E. EDWARDS, INDIANA ASBURY, TO H. T. HELM, MIAMI.

GREEN CASTLE, IND., October 1st, 1852.

Yours of the 24th of September was duly received. We are

glad to learn of the resurrection of your long buried chapter, and hereby extend to you our most cordial greetings and well wishes for your long life and prosperity.

Our chapter is in a flourishing condition—and we have a foothold, which, if I augur well, shall never be taken from us. True, we have opposition. Rivals have reared their diminutive heads and barked at us long and loudly, but their voices fall unheeded on our ears, while we pursue the even tenor of our way, turning neither to the right nor left. We are glad that we are worthy of opposition. Were we a worthless set of scamps, we would be allowed to live in peace and die of our own weakness. But we lay claim to merit, and consequently those are not wanting who would rob us of our well won laurels. There is an order of youths in this college styling themselves Philosonians (derive the name if you can), and they are in number about four score and ten. They have attained to this mushroom growth in the space of two years, and may be considered already as in “the sere and yellow leaf of life,” though at the same time green. They wear as a badge a pewter heart set in purple velvet. These made an effort to exterminate us, but failed signally. They then offered to throw away their constitution if we would, which offer we disdainfully rejected. We have never yielded to any, nor do we intend to. It is not on numbers that we rely, nor do “we put our trust in horses.” Our pleasures are more than “Barbarian” hearts have ever felt, and our strength is in that union of feeling and loftiness of aim which pervades all “who wear the badge and bear the name of Beta Theta Pi.” I like these Greek characters more and more, and although now writing to one whose voice I never heard, whose face I never saw, these magic letters surround his name with all the charm of old acquaintance.

Well, I must now give you some statistics: Number of students in college, 250. Some remarkably fine fellows. They are, with a few exceptions, friendly unto the Greeks, and manifest their feelings in the society elections. A high tone of moral feeling pervades the whole body of students. There are but few, if any, hard cases in college.

But to the statistics:

PRESENT ACTIVE MEMBERS.

D. OLIVER DAILY, Sen., Greensburg, Ind.

E. E. EDWARDS, Sen.,
 NOAH ALISON,* Jun.,
 JOHN HITT, Sen.,
 A. B. HESTER,* Soph.,
 JAMES W. GUNN, Fresh.,
 JNO. T. WEIR, Fresh.,
 WM. A. CURRAN,*
 WM. G. MILLSAPS, Sen.,
 MARK L. DEMOTTE, Sen.,

Green Castle, Ind.
 Spencer, Ind.
 Mt. Morris, Illinois.
 Charlestown, Ind.
 Lexington, Ky.
 New Albany, Ind.
 Utica, Ind.
 Hargroves, Miss.
 Gren Castle, Ind.

Those marked thus * are absent from college. With regard to the Hanover scheme, we bid you God speed. One of our number, Mr. Millsaps, is from there, and he approves the plan, and says that there is a fine opening; and from his knowledge of Bro. Galbraith, he is confident of success. We have a number of students from that institution, and they appear to be fine fellows, and if fortune favors, many of them shall yet flourish in the fold of Betaism. I can give you no information concerning the Illinois college; when brother Hitt returns I may. I thank you for the information which you sent concerning the other chapters. It is the first I have received, and this letter commences my duties as Recorder. Please write soon; any thing concerning Beta will be hailed with joy by our chapter, for we have the armor on, and are battling manfully.

Please accept the well wishes of Delta chapter collectively and individually.

ALFRED PEARSON, JEFFERSON, TO H. T. HELM, MIAMI.

GAMMA CHAPTER OF BETA THETA PI.

JEFFERSON COLLEGE, October 2nd, 1852.

Yours of Sept. 23rd was received about a week since, and it was my intention to have answered it immediately, but circumstances prevented. I received a letter from Mr. Junkin, your former recorder, some time in July, but unfortunately he did not inform me who would be his successor in the office. It was therefore necessary for me to wait until I heard from you, before writing. Having thus introduced myself without formality, let me assure you that it gives me great pleasure to make your acquaintance. The information which you

gave of the prosperity of your chapter was very cheering—such as makes the hearts of all good Greeks rejoice. Our chapter feels a lively interest in the welfare of all of the others, especially yours, since there our noble association had its origin. The chapters so far as heard from are all in a flourishing condition. That at Univ. of N. C. bids fair to take the lead, and outstrip all of us. They have now seven members, and will have five more before two weeks. They stand first of course; out of six secret societies there, they are acknowledged to be the best. The names of their members are I. L. Moorehead, G. N. Thompson, N. E. Scales, I. I. Scales, K. M. Murchison, etc. Our own chapter is in a good condition. We have seven members, which for the beginning of the college year, is a large number. Our prospects are brighter than they have ever been—at least for many years. There is but one other society here, but we consider it by no means a rival. They have of late taken only the *dregs* of the college, because no student of moderate abilities and *tolerable* character will connect himself with them. We take as much time as we please to *scrutinise* those whom we take in, as there is no danger of them being “snapped up” by other societies. I will send you a catalogue with the names of our members designated, by this mail. I received one of your college, from Mr. Junkin.

The names of the recorders are as follows: Beta, A. D. Stowell; Delta, E. E. Edwards; Lambda, (Hampden-Sidney) C. J. Armistead; Eta, Chapel Hill, N. C., K. M. Murchison.¹ We did not succeed in establishing a chapter at Beloit College, Wisconsin, as Brother Palmer did not deem it expedient at that time to go upon the embassy. Perhaps he may go some time during this winter. I forgot to lay the matter before our chapter relative to establishing a chapter at Hanover, Ind., but will do it at our next meeting.

The maker of our pins is W. W. Wilson, of Pittsburgh, Pa. By directing a letter to the recorder of this chapter, with the names of the persons desiring pins, and enclosing the money, you can get them at any time. They are very pretty, and we have lately sent a great many to the different chapters.

I give you a list of all our members since “I. P. Lytle,” as you requested.

1. The writer of the letter does not mention the chapter at Centre College, then called Iota.

H. QUAIL,	Washington, Pa., 1849.
M. S. QUAY,	Indiana, Pa., 1849. ²
N. MCGIFFIN,	Washington, Pa., 1850.
F. L. STEWART,	Marysville, Pa., 1850.
W. H. PYLE,	Richmond, O., 1850.
J. H. CLARK,	Schellsburg, Pa., 1850.
J. G. BOOTON,	Luray, Va., 1850.
J. F. KIRKPATRICK,	Westmoreland Co., Pa., 1851.
D. R. STEVENSON,	Canonsburg, Pa., 1851.
CALVIN WELLS, JR.,	Pittsburgh, Pa., 1851.
ROBT. MCMILLAN,	Washington, Pa., 1851.
B. RUSH CLARK, ²	Schellsburg, Pa., 1851.
R. K. CAMPBELL,	Schellsburg, Pa., 1851.
J. W. LUTHERLAND,	Ashland, O., 1851.
J. L. BITNER,	Cumberland Co., Pa., 1851.
C. T. JAMIESON,	Northern India, Pa., 1851.
D. H. SCOTT,	Hayesville, O., 1851.
ALFRED PEARSON,	Harrisburg, Pa., 1852.
I. NEWTON HIMES,	Shippensburg, Pa., 1852.

As Mr. Lytle's name is not signed to the constitution, I do not know the time at which he entered; but in order to be certain, and save me the trouble of examining the minute books, I have put down all since 1849. It is probable that he entered sometime in 1850. We shall be glad to hear from you as soon and as often as possible.

THOS. C. URMSTON, CENTRE, TO H. T. HELM, MIAMI.

CENTRE COLLEGE, DANVILLE, KY.,
IOTA CHAPTER OF BETA THETA PI,
October 9th, 1852.

Until a few weeks ago, we had not heard from your chapter for so long a period that we were beginning to doubt whether

2. The M. S. Quay referred to is Matthew Stanley Quay, who was for seventeen years United States Senator from Pennsylvania. He was considered to be the most astute political manager of his time. A man of unusual intellectual capacity he devoted himself to politics and held almost every office that the State of Pennsylvania could bestow (see Betas of Achievement, p. 231). B. Rush Clark (who dropped the "B" in after life) moved to Iowa and became very prominent in the affairs of that state. He was for a number of years a member of the state legislature and its speaker and was a member of Congress.

we should write you a letter or an obituary. Whilst vacillating between hope and fear, Brother Durham (*quondam* Recorder of Delta chapter), acquainted me with the names of Brothers Helm, Caldwell, and McMillan of your chapter. I immediately, therefore, after my return to college, sent you one of our catalogues; in return for which, I have now the honor of acknowledging the receipt of your highly interesting communication of the 22nd ult.

Prior to my election to office (with shame do I confess it), not a letter had been sent from and, but one or two received by, our chapter for twelve months. During this interval we were as strong, numerically, and possessed of as much true genius as at any former period; yet it was manifest from the irregularity with which our meetings were attended and the little interest taken therein, that we were waxing feeble. Whatever the causes of the unhappy interval we deplore it, and now—forgetting past delinquencies—we tender you the assurance of unabated fidelity, and propose, again, to resume our long neglected correspondence. I will begin by noticing your proposition and answering your interrogatories.

Firstly, you propose making it a chief object of your correspondence to endeavor to resuscitate defunct chapters. If you perceive any indication of repentance on the part of the renegades, and a disposition to return unto the ways, which, in their egregious folly, they have forsaken, then you have our hearty approval, and we would bid you God's blessing. By reason of their iniquitous secession were we wroth, and in our hot displeasure did we execrate them. But let them return unto us and we will have mercy upon them, and make confession of their sins and we will receive them.

Secondly, you propose establishing a chapter at Hanover, Ind. In this matter you have our unanimous approval and warmest sympathies. May the seed which you plant take deep root and bring forth one hundred fold to the honor and glory of the *Grecian cause*.

You ask about the condition and prospects of Transylvania University? For years it has been on the decline, and is now in a condition similar to that of General Pierce on the approach of battle. If you be Democratic you may think this rather a hard joke, and if so, let me remind you that at this particular juncture,

freedom of speech and independence of thought are prerogatives of every American.³

I wish to learn the name of the Recorder at Hudson, O., since I have some things of intelligence to communicate relative to the publication of a catalogue. By the by, since catalogues are mentioned let me obtrude upon your attention a few remarks concerning the same. That a catalogue is absolutely necessary to the permanency and prosperity of our association is daily becoming more apparent. Similar associations are successively springing into existence, publishing their catalogues, and, as a consequence thereof, are far outstripping us. If we wish to attain eminence or fear sinking into nonentity, we must advocate the catalogue; nay, we must not merely advocate it, but must go to work and have it. If the publication of a catalogue be not effected this session, rely upon it, it never will be effected.

Our predecessors from time immemorial entrusted the business to their successors; and now if we transmit it to *our* successors, so will it go on *ad infinitum*. Get up some such resolution as the following, and write to and encourage your sister chapters to do likewise:

"Resolved, That we, the members of the chapter of Beta Theta Pi, regard the publication of a catalogue as eminently calculated to advance the best interests of our association; that in order to accomplish said object we consider *immediate action* as highly essential; that we hold ourselves in readiness to contribute our just proportion of the funds required therefor; and that our Recorder be, and hereby is authorized to communicate the same to the members of the chapter (at Hudson), with the request that they take such *immediate action* as their judgment may dictate." Nor must we remain content with a catalogue. *We are to have* a periodical. We have men among our members whose talents, properly exercised, could not fail to secure for a publication an enviable notoriety and a richly compensating circulation. Let us, then, arouse from our lethargy and be *men*.

I wish for the prosperity of the Grecian cause generally, your chapter individually, and yourself personally.

3. It is very seldom that political allusions are found in any of these letters. Gen. Pierce was said by his political opponents to be in a state of total physical collapse under the conditions named.

K. M. MURCHISON, NORTH CAROLINA, TO H. T. HELM, MIAMI.

ETA CHAPTER, BETA THETA PI,
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

CHAPEL HILL, October 11th, 1852.

Your letter of the 23rd instant came duly to hand, for which favor please accept my thanks. Being busily engaged for the past few weeks, must plead my apology for this delay. It is with pleasure that I take my seat to answer your letter, although it will be in a hasty manner.

We are proud to receive so generous a welcome, in the cause of Betaism, from the oldest chapter of the association, and rest assured, my dear sir, that we will use our utmost endeavors to uphold this chapter in dignity and character. We have advanced but a little way in the cause, yet we hope the time is not far distant when our chapter will be as flourishing as any other in the Union. We are highly pleased with the association, and will always have its welfare deeply at heart. If you should ever meet a "Greek" from the old North State you will find him to be a clever fellow, or I am greatly mistaken. If you should ever visit the South, every Greek will extend to you a cordial welcome, and meet you as a brother, never unmindful of the obligations which our constitution imposes.

Owing to the recent organization of this chapter, our number is necessarily small, having only seven members, but will increase it soon to twelve, which will be the number we desire. I send you a catalogue with name of the society to which each student belongs. You will perceive that the Delta Kappa Epsilon has a very large number of members, it being the oldest association in the institution. It is a tolerably respectable chapter, although it is a *mixed set*. They receive every student that takes any distinction in his class, that is, if he will join them. They have had many refusals, more, I presume, than any other society in existence at this place. They have some fine fellows, but some others quite the reverse. The Phi Gamma Delta is the most respectable society in college, of course, *ours* excepted.⁴

4. Beta Theta Pi was the third fraternity to enter the University of North Carolina. Delta Kappa Epsilon entered first in 1850, and Phi Gamma Delta second in 1851. At the time Beta Theta Pi entered Phi Gamma Delta had chapters at Jefferson, Washington (Pa.), Nashville, Union (Tenn.) and Washington (Tenn.), Delta Kappa Epsilon

Those names marked with the asterisk belong to the "skull and bones" club, which is a poor affair, being principally composed of the *rowdies* of college. Our rivals being numerous, will retard our progress in some degree; however, we can obtain as many members as we like, but do not work to have a large number. We have no members in the last Senior class, as you will see by the catalogue, as our chapter was not instituted before they graduated. Some of them were the movers in getting a chapter of the Beta Theta Pi here, but a delay having occurred, they could not join, and left it in our hands, which will account for the smallness of our numbers. We have had several applications for membership, but we are very careful in our selection, and invariably refuse those whose characters we do not know perfectly well. We cannot be too careful, as we expect to partake of the honor and share in the disgrace of each individual member.

We are glad to hear that your chapter is in a flourishing condition, and hope it may continue as long as the institution remains. You speak of instituting a chapter at Hanover College in Indiana, which, I need hardly say, meets with our entire approbation. We are anxious to hear of a chapter being in every college of high standing in the United States. In future when you desire to institute a chapter at any college you may consider our votes as for it, leaving it at your discretion. We think we can probably extend chapters further south in a short while, in South Carolina, Ala., and Georgia. There are two other colleges in this state, but of rather low standing, and we think it would be inexpedient to have chapters established at either of them.

I must conclude. At your convenience I shall be happy to hear from you.

With my best wishes for your prosperity and happiness, and success to your chapter,

I remain your brother.

DAVID FITCH, WESTERN RESERVE, TO H. T. HELM, MIAMI.

WESTERN RESERVE COLLEGE,

HUDSON, O., October 23d, 1852.

I received your letter yesterday, and have just written

had chapters at Yale, Bowdoin, Princeton, Colby, Amherst, Nashville. Alabama, Mississippi, Brown, North Carolina, Harvard, South Carolina, Miami and Kenyon.

to Stowell, making known your request. I inquired whether your letters had been forwarded, but as the P. M. was absent, they could give no information on the subject. There were, however, no letters there then for Stowell, so it is probable they have been forwarded. I cannot, indeed, give a very favorable report of the state of affairs in this college at present. She is down in the dust. But our institution is not quite defunct, and may yet rise again. To give a history of the difficulties which led to the present deplorable state of affairs, I should be obliged to go back a period of twelve or fifteen years, when the present incumbent of the presidential chair was inducted into office. That was the most unfortunate movement the trustees ever made, and is the primary cause of the present hour of darkness and gloom. The President has been an incubus to the college the whole time that he has been connected with it, and has been a check to its prosperity. I am not in possession of all the facts, but he has pursued a course ever since he has been here, particularly in relation to the financial matters, which the other members of the faculty could not uphold, as it prevented them from getting but a small part of their salaries. Some of the faculty, however, year after year, made great sacrifices in order to sustain the college. Unfortunately, there is a majority of the board of the trustees who are men of the same disposition as the President in many respects, and who have upheld him in his course. At the close of last year, the faculty, feeling they could no longer sustain the policy of the President, and remain at their post while continually making great sacrifices, were obliged to resign, at least all excepting one professor in the college, and one in the theological department. If the President should resign, of which there does not at present appear to be much probability, it is likely that all, excepting one, of the old faculty would return. If he should not resign, the college, I think, must go down. It will never flourish again unless he leaves unconditionally. There being no instruction provided for the upper classes, in consequence of the resignation of the professors, there are only two classes, the sophomore and freshman, here at present, and but a part of those two classes, seven sophomores and sixteen freshmen. I am the only surviving member of our large and flourishing chapter of last year. I am in the sophomore class; became a member of the Beta Theta Pi in March; was the last one initiated. There is

one consolation in our despondency. The Alphas are no larger than we are, there being but one member of their chapter left, who is our tutor. If he initiates any new member, I, of course, have the same privilege, if there should be any of the true Beta spirit. Three of our members are in Yale,—Stowell, Ford and Wolcott,—three as noble fellows as ever breathed. I do not know whether they will be able to establish a chapter in Yale or not. I shall probably receive a letter from Stowell this week and he will doubtless give some information on the subject. I should think it doubtful about establishing a chapter there; but with three such representatives as those whom I have named, there is a probability that it could be done. If, however, this college should be restored, there is a probability that Ford and Wolcott will return next year. Stowell will have graduated. I am much obliged to you for your expressions of sympathy. I shall not leave my post during the present year, but if, at the close of the year, there is no change for the better, necessity will compel me to leave. But affairs here have come to such a crisis that there must be a change for the better very soon, or the college will go down entirely. It is outrageous—abominable—and my blood boils with indignation when I think how the faculty and stewards have been actually driven away by the dastardly conduct of one man.

I am not able to state precisely with regard to the Ann Arbor chapter. I have been looking over the records and some of the correspondence of our chapter, but I am not able to find anything alluding to Ann Arbor. I think, however, it is about a year since the last member left the ground, who, rather than to renounce his faith, suffered himself to be expelled from the institution. I am not able to give the history of their difficulties. I saw a letter from the person that I alluded to, some six months ago, giving a history of the troubles, but I have not been able to find the letter in the correspondence. If I succeed in finding the letter I will send you a copy. You, of course, have our unanimous consent to establish a chapter at South Hanover. We think it would be desirable. I shall be happy to hear from you often. Please send me a catalogue of your institution, and mark the names of the Betas.

C. T. JAMIESON, JEFFERSON, TO D. W. McCLUNG, MIAMI.

CANONSBURG, PA.,

OLD "AMPHICTYON," Nov. 2d, 1852.

I have been kept from answering your letter before by a confounded "Lyceum" performance. Now, you must know that the "Lyceum" is an *honorable* body, one which contains none but lovers of science, and therefore, must not be slighted. We have essays on subjects connected with science every night we meet, and ask for information on all obscure points, such as "why does a chicken raise its head while drinking?" and "will a tooth pulled out by the fingers grow?" &c. My turn to enlighten the fellows comes next Monday—subject, "Ornamented Porcelain." But, my goodness! I'm not talking to a senior! Who would have thought that a man who has gone through the entire sophomore and junior years, and is now pretty well advanced into the first session of the senior, could willingly lay aside his well earned dignity, even for a moment, to write to one in a lower class. Yet, on the present occasion, I'd write to *any one*, I'm so glad the first money for the catalogue has been received. Affairs are now fast coming to a point. We can see our way more clearly than before, and are looking forward with ardent hope for the moment which shall present to our view the *First Catalogue of Greekdom*.⁵ Fifteen dollars have already been expended in the cause and at the present time there are twenty-four in the treasury. This is promising. It ought to have been thus long ago. However, "better late than never," you know.

Fellows, we of the Gamma are thankful to you for your prompt action. What is the use of lagging on the way, when we know the distance *must* be passed over? Why not rather run and be done with it? We wish the other chapters would follow your example in this thing. You ask, Dave, how much more you will have to give. By a proportion made out by Bro. Hunt, I think your whole share would amount to \$44 or \$45, being the oldest chapter. We *expect* to raise \$50, because some of our members are rather wealthy, and may give X's. It is obscure, however. From this, therefore, \$20 more would be due from you. The Chapel Hill boys have been kicking up a fuss on account of the

5. The catalogue was issued finally under the auspices of the Miami chapter in 1855.

heavy taxation laid on them. They wrote and wished an explanation of several things before they could send on a copper. I gave it to them, but have received no answer. They are young yet and ought not to be asked much. Please do give me the Hampden Sidney's recorder's name. I have not heard from that place since I was installed in office. I hope nothing wrong has come to pass. Concerning our affairs here, I have only to say that we are going to add a sixth man to our little band in a short time. Is it not a glorious thing to find a fellow among the barbarians whom we can pluck from his downward course and place high in our esteem? Glenn here, who has been exalted to the *presidential seat*, is busy preparing an initiatory speech upon the wings of which McKinney may be borne into the circle of the "mystic brotherhood." He is a first rate fellow and will make a good Argive, though not "long haired."

The prospects for a chapter at Marietta are "all up any more." The project has fallen through. The faculty think they can manage without secret societies.

About Centenary College, I do not know so much. The scheme has not failed, however, only in *statu quo*. We have been thinking about Marshall and Lafayette colleges and ask your opinion about honoring them with branches of the Beta Theta Pi. There is good stuff there, I guess. No other places come before my mind just now. Tell us what you think of these two.

You did not send the year in which each of the members entered, therefore I send you back the list with the request that you do so. I believe we told you what names were transferred to you. Please send on their names, their occupation, their residence, and the year they entered, if you can.

Excuse me for having made this so much a business letter; next time will try and do better. Good night.

ISAAC N. HIMES, JEFFERSON, TO C. D. CALDWELL, MIAMI.

GAMMA CHAPTER, BETA THETA PI,
CANONSBURG, PA., March 12, 1853.

Well! well! well!—I'd like to rake up something poetical or interesting out of the muckpile of my brain, for a commencement; but really the spring fever has set in so early, that I fear it will be as much as I can do, if I am able to make a respectably long scribble. Besides, I've had the *blues* for a day

or two, on account of the failure of our Marietta scheme.⁶ The gentleman on whom we depended writes thus: "I regret to inform you that there is little hope respecting the formation of a chapter at Marietta College. Not one to whom I have spoken favors the idea. Some have "conscientious scruples" as to becoming associated with a secret society, others have no inclination that way for the reason that the literary society with which they are connected demands all the time that they can devote aside from their studies—and others again, for other reasons. So the matter stands. There is no encouragement to move on. The fact of the matter is, that our fellows have the most scrupulous consciences of any group of fellows I ever met; anything which savors of the doubtful they can't bring their consciences to countenance, and it so happens that secret societies have been classed among the list of things doubtful. It would be easy for me to get up a society from those who are not included among the *goodly number*. But it so happens that the great majority of those, whom I had in my eye, are among the scrupulous." In a few years, when the college is older, he thinks a chapter could be established, but not now. There is a fine set of fellows there at present, and it is quite a disappointment to us Jefferson boys, as we had cherished the idea of having a chapter there, and had "rolled it as a sweet morsel under the tongue." But we can only shed a passing tear over the blighted blossom. They, however, are the losers more than the Beta Theta Pi. I could quote, this evening, with desperate energy: "I never nursed a dear gazelle," etc.,—sing, if I had any voice, an indefinite quantity of dismal songs—but I do forbear. Nevertheless, Rush, my chum, gives me great consolation. He tells me "whatever is, is right"—"can't recover spilt milk"—"a rotten egg can't be hatched"—and a host of such soothing words that are like "balm to the wounded spirit."

I will make your suggestion to Dave Fitch in my next letter to him. I wish we could get a chapter at Cleveland. I guess you were misinformed in regard to the existence of the Alpha Delta Phi at Marietta. We had the best means of ascertaining it if such were the case. We must keep an unremitting watch over

6. Phi Gamma Delta was the first fraternity to enter Marietta in 1855. In 1853, Marietta was one of the best small colleges in the country.

that college and step in as soon as there is any opportunity—since undoubtedly it is very important to gain an advantageous position at an institution that promises so much for the future. We must not be behind in the railroad spirit of the day.

There was a hearty laugh over your cute Delaware operation, the more heartfelt because we were disappointed in our part of the project. So we yield to you with all willingness the honor of being first to unfurl our pennant on the Delaware ramparts. May it speedily be planted and long wave there an honor to the Beta Theta Pi. As to the University of Virginia; Alf. Pearson wrote to one of our members whom he supposed to be there; but as we have received no reply from him it is likely that he has left. However we need not despair in that quarter. We the other day received a letter from Geo. N. Thompson, the Recorder at Chapel Hill, a first rate fellow, by the way, judging from his familiar and brotherly letters, in which he says, "I would be much pleased to have a chapter established at the University of Virginia, as I expect to go there to study a profession as soon as I graduate here, which I will do in June; and if there is no chapter formed before I go there, as soon as I have become acquainted I will exert my influence to get it up." I suppose you are as well posted in the Oakland matter as I am—here also another way seems to open just as the first is closing. I will quote again from Thompson's letter, "Jim Moore, a member of our glorious little chapter, a clever warm hearted Mississippian and as enthusiastic a Beta as ever breathed, thinks it very probable that he will visit his home next summer, 'the last of May;' and he assures me that it would afford him great pleasure to officiate in behalf of the Beta Theta Pi at Oakland college, if no one will offer their services at present, and Bro. Urmston is willing to defer forming a chapter there until that time." I fear that you will yet overreach us in the good work of founding chapters, nevertheless our spirit is not that of the snarling dog towards the oxen in the fable; but we say "keep the ball rolling on," whoever gives it the first or best kick. You have our sincerest sympathy in your labors at Hanover. If there is any chance, send our friend *Gulliver* down and our prayer is that his adventures may be as famous as those of his illustrious predecessor.

The "multa vexata quaestio"—I quote that from Alf. Pear-

son, so don't call me pedantic—is "How do we succeed in the catalogue matters?" For us—the dirt doesn't just pour in as fast as could be wished. I do not know whether I can, at present, give you very definite or correct information as to the particulars of the publication of the catalogue. We have not yet decided whether we are in favor of placing the names of each chapter in a separate list, or not. If we do, I think we will not give the situation of the chapter at all, but just place a letter above the list denoting its priority, e. g. For the Alpha Chapter:

J. T. BERRY, Bath Co., Ky.

J. M. BROWN, Butler Co., O.

There are several difficulties connected with this plan, on account of which it may be thrown aside. We are rather in favor of publishing it, with some modifications, as directed in the Report of the Committee on Catalogue to be found in the minutes of the Triennial Convention held at Hudson, August 8th, 1848. We would like to have an expression of the views of the other chapters with regard to this and everything else connected with the Catalogue. I hope to have more definite information for you at my next writing, as our chapter will meet in a few days. It would have met before my writing this, but the President is so busy preparing his debate for the next contest that we do not wish to disturb him. Indeed there are many things that cannot be decided until after we have ascertained the amount of funds at our disposal.

I do not know anything about the Williams chapter nor in relation to its secession.⁷ At the first Triennial Convention held at Cincinnati, it was "ordered that a record book be procured, into which shall be transcribed the Constitution, the proceedings and regulations of the Triennial Convention, etc. Do you know whether it was ever procured, and if so, what chapter has it? Perhaps it would throw light on the history of those defunct chapters. I can find nothing in our records in relation to Williams' secession, or whatever it was. Where can any information be obtained? Let us stir ourselves up and perhaps we may

7. It is certainly curious that the secretary of the Presiding chapter in 1853 should not know of things which had happened only a year or two previous. It shows the extreme inefficiency of the fraternity. The record book referred to in the same paragraph never was commenced, so far as we know.

again see the old volcano in full blast. I notice their letters are the most spirited of any in our book.

I am as much at a loss in relation to the Ann Arbor chapter as I was about the Williams chapter. I'll try to scrape up all the information I can; and, if you please, assist all you can—probably we may with perseverance and energy, be able to do something towards relighting those extinguished council fires.

The Recorder at Hampden-Sidney is E. H. Harding, and at Chapel Hill, Geo. N. Thompson. You will, I think, find both of them of the true brotherly spirit, and altogether fine fellows. Our vacation will commence in about three weeks, but I think I will remain here during that month, so you will continue to address your letters as usual. Give my sincere love to *Gulliver* and the new brother, Mr. Love. When you extend to Murphy the right hand of fellowship, give him also a Grecian *grip* for me, and to the Greeks one and all greeting.

I haven't heard from I. A. University for an age, have you? They are in debt to our chapter two or three letters.

E. E. EDWARDS, INDIANA ASBURY, TO H. T. HELM, MIAMI.

DELTA CHAPTER, BETA THETA PI,
GREENCASTLE, IND., March 19th, 1853.

I have been exceeding negligent in the discharge of my official duties, for which I deserve the censure of the brethren; but as I had nothing of importance to communicate I hope my remissness will be overlooked.

Our chapter is prosperous. We meet every two weeks, and have jolly times, such as tradition informs us that the early Greeks enjoyed when they met at twilight's hour, beneath the green branches of the old beech tree. The tree is now deadened by some vindictive foe; its limbs are withered and its trunk is peeled. But there are other trees in the forest; there are other Greeks who met together in the woodland shade (rather cold weather as yet), and they are what they have always been, kings. We are but ten, and the barbarians are four score and ten, and yet they complain that we rule them with a rod of iron. They comfort themselves with the unfounded assurance that ere many moons shall wax and wane, the Greeks shall be no more, they shall pass away "like the leaves of the forest when Autumn hath blown," and there shall be none to mourn for them, not one.

Vain hopes! delusive visions! Greekdom is like unto a mountain spring which the rains of heaven and the pearly dew-drops fill, or which boils up from the generous earth in an un-failing stream, a joy to the thirsty pilgrim who sips its sparkling wave and journeys on refreshed. But the barbarians—unto what shall I liken them? Behold a pond, stagnating in the sunshine, covered with the scum of imbecility, fetid odors arising therefrom like the effluvia of a decaying horse; while from rotten chunks floating in the abyss, come the doleful croakings of unnumbered soulless frogs. Phew.

We fill our goblets to the brim and drink to the health of the brethren afar off, united with us in one common tie. Nor do we forget the gentler, fairer portion of humanity, whose smiles make glad the garden of the heart. Among them, there are Greeks true and faithful. One of these we contemplate taking unto ourself, at which event a portion of gingerbread shall be forwarded to all the brethren.

I almost forgot to state that I am no longer recorder of Delta chapter. My term expired a month ago, and Mark L. DeMotte, my room-mate, is elected in my stead. He, being deeply immersed in study, appointed me deputy, *pro tem*. He has six studies, and is a ladies' man, to boot; consequently his time is occupied almost entirely. He is a tow-headed youth of twenty summers, and sports an astonishingly white moustache, for one of such tender years. He plays upon the violin, and upon all bass instruments.

We go the entire *porcum* in the catalogue alone, with the exception of the designs for the separate chapters. What has become of Hanover? In a few weeks Brother Millsaps and myself are going there and we would like to know exactly how matters stand. We ought to extend our boundaries as much as possible, and I am bothered with the belief that a chapter can be established at Hanover. However, if Brother Drake, or whatever his name is, failed entirely, it might not be prudent to make another attempt.

M. L. DE MOTTE, INDIANA ASBURY, TO C. D. CALDWELL, MIAMI.

GREEN CASTLE, IND.

DELTA CHAPTER, BETA THETA PI., April 3, 1853.

Well, Brother Calvin.—Caldwell—Cadwallader, or whatever

your name is, "how are ye," this evening? And you can't "sprout em," eh? (Those moustaches I mean.) Verily, thou art exceedingly destitute. The cheek of the peach hath "fuzz," and you have none. How did you reconcile your face to the fall and winter style? You have a picture of my maiden effort in that line of agriculture. They were of spotless purity, and delightful to behold. They were curled like unto the tail of a juvenile grunter. The old dames of the surrounding hill country pronounced them hideous, and wondered why I would disfigure my countenance with them. The young damsels would scream with fright if I should bring my countenance near theirs, but it generally so happened, as is oftentimes the case when one is extremely frightened, that they move toward the object of terror instead of from it. Collisions, and explosions, sometimes resulted—I forget, though, who I am writing to, and what my duty is. Recorders generally write just what they are obliged to of business affairs, and go no further. I think it is well enough to give great heed to temporal affairs, but I think, also, that they ought to regard the spiritual affairs likewise. They should cast in a morsel of fun once in a while; it does the soul good, and settles the supper. Yourself, and Ike Himes of Jefferson chapter, have started out on the right track. Our boys are good laughers, and it would have done your soul good to have heard them laugh at Ike's first one. It was eight pages long. He spoke of every chapter in existence and in contemplation, chinking the cracks with the rarest of wit. Yours was also hailed as a jewel. Let us have them often. I will do all I can to interest you, and instruct you on any point you may desire. Let us have your business items, and all your trials and triumphs, and we will mourn or rejoice, as the case may be.—By the way I would say my name is Mark L. DeMotte, not Mark L. D. Motte.

Much obliged to you for your advice concerning the Hanover affair, but at present it was as seed sown upon stones. My visit was in February, and I did not receive your letter until March. I wish I had known what I do now; I might just as easily have established a chapter there as not. Another brother was with me, Mr. Millsapps, formerly a student at Hanover. But I was in blissful ignorance of even an intention to establish a chapter. I saw Mr. Drake, and could have spoken with him and

made all necessary arrangements. Is he one of us yet? I am much disappointed that I did not know the circumstances. There seems to me to be very good material there among the students, and perhaps among the faculty. Stir the egg a little and see if it cannot be easily hatched. I am going there to their commencement exercises, which are sometime in August—several of our chapter are going. If there are no arrangements made before that time, we would be happy to act as deputies—I would, at least. I wish to be instrumental in spreading the faith. That Ohio Wesleyan affair was rather rich; Himes told me of the movement; he seemed in great glee about it. Be sure and report proceedings as soon as you hear them. I want to write them a welcome letter, and encourage them in their good work of leading freshmen from by and forbidden paths. Our chapter is flourishing like a green bay tree. We took another passenger on board a few days since. One of the true blue, and no mistake, A. L. Kittle. We are intending to have an address delivered to us on our next commencement. We are likewise expecting the refusal of the college chapel, as a place of having it. Our president is a stern man, and rather leans against us; we expect to have an orator, though, that will draw a crowd independent of any of their helps. If we are denied, we will betake ourselves to the church or the grove, and in spite of all their efforts lead their audience away from them. Oh—my eyes burn to look upon the scene. I want to witness the general “bulging out of eyes” among the barbarians; I want to see their heads droop like the rooster’s tail in a storm; I want them to know that their prophecy a year ago, “that the shirt tail of the last Greek would be seen floating out at the back door of the University before another commencement,” was but an idle word from an empty brain. You speak of an honorable rival. We have none. There is a thing here—the “Philosonian,” which, interpreted by one of us, means *Friendly asses*. Their avowed object is our extermination. They number about three score and ten, among whom are some of the right kind; others, again, would stir discord in heaven. They charge us with all manner of crime and debauchery, and assail us night and day. We let them alone, and silently bear the banner of Beta onward. Woe be unto them! It will be more tolerable for the old Sodomites on commencement day than for these

Philistines. Like you, I do not feel in "whack" today. I am tired; I have just returned from a vacation spree. Ten of the right stripe went to the westward a few leagues, by way of the steam horse, and pitched a tent in the wilderness, where for six days we lived, waging a war of extermination upon all the feathered, haired and finned tribe. We had each a gun, fishing tackle, and a nice tent for the crowd, and all the culinary appurtenances. I remembered Greekdom in the wilderness, and having a post office near, I wrote to several of the chapters. If I felt altogether at liberty, and not positively weary, I would give you another sheet of our adventures, which were decidedly of the richest order. I will strive to be more interesting in my next.

Nothing stirs the energies more than a good letter, so turn yourself loose, and the good you will accomplish will be great; I am weak but will do my best.

G. N. THOMPSON, NORTH CAROLINA, TO C. D. CALDWELL, MIAMI.

UNIVERSITY OF N. C.,
ETA CHAPTER, BETA THETA PI,

April 19th, '53.

Your kind letter of April 12th was received yesterday evening, and I hasten to reply, lest you may think me a negligent correspondent, and rather a bad recorder.

I am sorry Brother Helm's letter was never answered, but I do not know well the circumstances, as I was not at that time in office. Brother Murchison, my predecessor, says the letter was received just upon the eve of his going home for vacation, and as Brother Helm spoke in his letter of leaving college soon, he did not know whether for vacation or as a graduate, so he did not reply to the letter. So by this explanation I have cleared myself of any blame, which may have been attached to me, *inadvertently*, in the matter.

Here permit me to thank you for your notice of us, and let me assure you that the correspondence shall never lag while I have the honor to hold the high position I now occupy, but I sincerely regret that my term of office will soon draw to a termination. I have found in my official capacity an attachment for some of our brother Greeks, which is devoted and lasting. Some, I am sorry to say, have neglected us, and been neglected by us, but it was not for want of interest, but my inability to discover

the Recorders of the chapters. Our commencement will soon be upon us and I will bid an eternal adieu to the many pleasures and few inconveniences of college life. I have been in college now nearly four years, and am sorry indeed, as the time draws near when I must leave forever my many warm-hearted and generous young friends. And I can but regret that my connection with the Beta Theta Pi did not commence at an earlier period. The association has ever proved a source of pleasure to me, and I will ever detain in my memory the many delightful hours I have had opportunities to pass in our "*assembly room*."

We number fourteen, and I do not think it possible that a more clever, high minded and congenial set of chaps could have been collected together, or bound together in an association like ours.

We are preparing to have our anniversary celebrated in a proper and creditable manner, by an oration or so by the members. Then to have a little "Ball" among ourselves, at which will be set out all the sweets and good things to eat, and a little of the best — &c., that can possibly be procured in our country and neighboring city. I wish we could have some of our brothers of other chapters to meet with us on that happy occasion. We would most assuredly extend to them a "brother's hand and a brother's welcome." It comes off on the 28th of the present month. I think Brother Green, the gentleman who founded our chapter, will be present on the occasion.

I must ask you to excuse this short letter, with a promise to do better in future. Please write to me soon.

ANTHONY C. JUNKIN, MIAMI, TO EDW. W. MULLIKEN, A
STUDENT AT OHIO UNIVERSITY.

OXFORD, O., December 13, 1853.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 7th inst., has been received and I have been directed by the Beta Theta Pi society to address you on the subject, which you propose. The society is anxious for the reorganization of its branch at your institution, but feels a hesitancy in granting your request without some previous knowledge of those who are to constitute its members.⁸ It was with

⁸ This would seem to be about the first time that anyone exhibited any caution or hesitation about establishing a chapter.

pleasure that I satisfied them with regard to yourself, confident, as I am of your judgment and discretion in the matter.

The chapter would like to know something of the character, and standing of the persons associated with you, to what classes in the University they belong, how you came to know of the former existence of a chapter at your institution, and what you know of it, and what are the condition and prospects of the University. Your request will be complied with immediately on receiving an answer. The chapter here has in its possession a list of the old members of the Athens chapter and will forward it, together with a constitution and all things else necessary.

I will say to you individually, that it gives me much pleasure to learn where you are and it will give me more yet to meet you, and extend to you the right hand of fellowship, as a brother in the Beta Theta Pi. I graduated in the University a year and a half ago, and since have been studying Theology in the Theological School in Oxford.

RIPLEY C. HOFFMAN, OHIO, TO OLIVER P. SHIRAS,⁹ OHIO.

JACKSON COURT HOUSE, O., Feb. 24, 1854.

Your kind favor of the 13th inst., is received. I do not believe that I am able now to communicate anything that will be of service to you in your efforts to reorganize the Ohio chapter of the "Beta Theta Pi" of which I was one time a member. I was one of the three first members of that chapter but when I left the institution the chapter was in a very flourishing condition and I never learned what disposition was made of its books and property when the institution suspended, nor can I tell you who were its members at that time.

I suppose you will only get the information which you desire from some of the members who were at the institution at the time of its suspension. I would be very glad to assist you in this matter if I could. I was very much attached to the chapter and its members and am glad to hear of your efforts to reorganize it.

9. Oliver P. Shiras became an eminent citizen of Iowa. He graduated at the Yale Law School and became a lawyer. He served all through the Civil War in the Union Army and was U. S. District Judge for the Northern District of Iowa for twenty-one years.

CAMPBELL T. JAMISON, JEFFERSON, TO OLIVER P. SHIRAS, OHIO.

Feb. 27th, 1854.

I received a letter from you the other day, announcing the reestablishment of the chapter at Ohio University, Athens, Ohio. Nothing would please us better than the certain knowledge of such an event. But you know we have had to be careful in our correspondence concerning our association and I must not say anything in this note which would reveal the slightest secret intrusted to the charge of every individual member.

However if you prove to me in a manner beyond doubt the existence of the chapter you say there is at your college, let me assure you, you will receive a far different communication from me. Our chapter has heard nothing in the least of the movement. Please inform us who it was that resurrected you and how in the world you increased to the comparatively large number of six without our knowledge. You must not be at all offended at what I have said in the preceding for I am under great responsibility for any mischief done. It is only for this reason that I have made these statements. Write immediately upon reception of this and tell me what I have asked. I feel anxious to greet you as Brothers and yourself individually as a particular friend. I shall write the instant I receive your answer and give you all the information you wish.

JOHN ALONZO BROWN, OHIO, '44, TO OLIVER P. SHIRAS,
OHIO, '53.

LOGAN, OHIO, February 6, 1854.

Your letter of the 4th inst., is before me and I hasten to reply. I regret my inability to answer you satisfactorily. I became a member of Beta Theta Pi shortly after its organization, and was an attending member for only a short time, as I left Athens. My only connection afterwards with the society was the delivery of a poem, upon the occasion of its only public exhibition.

I always felt a deep interest in the Association and am pleased that you have resuscitated it; as such societies always, where properly conducted produce the best results.

For information regarding its former organization, I would refer you to R. C. Hoffman, Esq., of Jackson and W. W. Bierce

of Circleville, who were earlier and more active members than myself. As to its dissolution and the disposal of its books and other property I know nothing. I am inclined to think if you can ascertain the whereabouts of James M. Safford, and write to him he will be able to give you the information you desire.

I regret that an Association so calculated to benefit its members should have been permitted to fall into decay, and trust your efforts to reinstate it may meet with complete success and your reward will be found in innumerable advantages to yourselves and others.

Present to the society my sincere wishes for its success and prosperity to the individual members, and accept for yourself my kind regards.

GEORGE R. CLARK, MIAMI, TO OLIVER P. SHIRAS, OHIO.

OXFORD, O., Feb. 14, 1854.

Your letter came to hand a few days ago and I will now proceed to answer it, giving you what information I can relative to your inquiries. And first as to the place for obtaining your Seal and Pins. As regards a seal. I presume you can procure that in Athens or at any place where there is a good engraver. We obtained ours in Cincinnati. I will send you an impression of ours, which will answer as a *sample* for the engraver. To get your pins you had better write to the Recorder of the chapter at Canonsburg, Pa. That is the way we procured ours. There is one establishment makes them in Pittsburgh and another in New Haven. The price of the ordinary pins is \$6.00 but with a real diamond it is much higher. The name of the Recorder is C. T. Jamison. You may direct your letter to him or "To any member of the B @ II society." This perhaps would be the safer way since in case the Recorder should be absent some member would get your letter. Better write first for instructions, then send your money. I will send you a list of the chapters and recorders with this.

JOHN WILLIAM JACOBS, CENTRE, TO OLIVER P. SHIRAS, OHIO.

DANVILLE, KY., March 8, 1854.

I am just in receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst., conveying the agreeable intelligence of the reestablishment of the chapter at the Ohio University and asking for advice and assistance. I most heartily extend to you, and through you, to the members

of the chapter the right hand of fellowship and promise you all the aid and assistance I am able to give.

The objects of the fraternity are the promotion of confidence¹⁰ and of sympathy, interchange of intellectual effort, and mutual assistance, as the constitution expresses it. We have chapters located at several of the best colleges in the country, and are continually enlarging the sphere of our operations. It is required by the constitution that a correspondence should be carried on between the different chapters by their respective recorders. I would refer you however to the excellent recorder of the presiding chapter, Campbell T. Jamison of Jefferson College, for information. He doubtless can furnish it more satisfactorily than I can. The constitution also will instruct you as to the nature and objects of the order. By-laws, you are at liberty to adopt as you please.

I will transcribe for you the by-laws of our own chapter. Perhaps they may afford you some assistance, *viz.*:

BY LAWS OF THE EPSILON CHAPTER OF THE BETA THETA PI.

Article I. This branch of the association shall be known as the Epsilon Chapter of the Beta Theta Pi.¹¹

Article II. The order of business at all regular meetings shall be as follows:

1st. The President having called the chapter to order, the recorder shall read the minutes of the preceding meeting, which being adopted,

2nd. The initiation of members shall take place.

3rd. The members appointed at the last meeting shall read essays.

4th. Essayists shall be appointed for the next meeting.

5th. Correspondence from other chapters shall be read.

6th. Miscellaneous business (all the irregular business of the chapter).

7th. Selection of subjects for conferences for the next meeting.

10. This is a very clear statement of the objects of the fraternity and the by-laws contained in this letter are admirable.

11. "It should be noted that at this date the Centre chapter had begun to be called 'Epsilon' instead of 'Iota.' Apparently it exchanged names with the Hanover chapter which was immediately after this date called 'Iota.'"

8th. The President shall appoint two persons to open the conference upon the subject chosen at the last meeting.

[It will be seen that our order of business is rather different from what is generally pursued in literary societies, but is so for convenience sake.]

Article III. 1. This chapter shall meet once in three weeks.

2. The president shall appoint at his discretion one, two or three members as essayists at every regular meeting.

3. The recorder shall read all the correspondence.

Article IV. 1. The time for the election of officers shall be at the last regular meetings in June and December.

2. Elections shall be ballot, a plurality constituting election.

Article V. The recorder at his expiration of his term of office shall lay before the chapter an account of the expenses of the chapter during his term of office which shall be borne equally by all the members.

Article VI. The penalties for misdemeanors shall be presidential reprimand and expulsion, the former inflicted at the discretion of the president, the latter only in aggravated cases and by an unanimous vote of the chapter.

Article VII. These by-laws may be altered or amended by a two-thirds majority of the members at any regular meeting.

Article VIII. The name of any person proposed for membership in this chapter shall be presented at a regular meeting and be held over for consideration until the next regular meeting.

Article IX. A person having once been proposed for membership of this chapter and rejected, can never again be proposed except by the person or persons rejecting him.

Article X. The names of all persons proposed for membership and rejected with the names of those rejecting them, shall be inserted on a paper separate from the record of the minutes.

In electing members you should be very particular whom you elect, and also be certain that he belongs to no other association of a similar character. These are about what I think will be most important for you to know. The constitution will instruct you fully as regards your duty. If there is anything else you wish to know, I am ready and willing to afford any assistance. Let us hear from you soon and often.

JOHN W. JACOBS, CENTRE, TO IRA G. GROVER, INDIANA ASBURY.
DANVILLE, Ky, March 27, 1854.

Your letter has been received some time and should have answered long ago had not multifarious duties compelled me to delay until now. I have just returned from the Baptist Church, where they are carrying on a protracted meeting with some success and it is now ten o'clock, and how can I supply the rest of the hour more agreeably than in replying to your kind and interesting letter? I have just received a letter from Brother Clark in reply to my last of November 17, 1853. I think he has treated me anything but courteously—it may be and doubtless is the fact that my letters are not worth much attention, but common politeness I think would dictate that he should reply at a reasonable time. However, he has replied at last and I will overlook past delinquencies.

From your last I should judge that you have had some squally weather in your latitude and were likely to have some more. Now this is disagreeable to be sure notwithstanding you are in the right and I would advise you to steer your bark cautiously, lest you should be stranded. But it does our hearers good to hear of the courage and determination you display in the tempest which the Barbarians and Faculty have raised about you. You have our sincerest sympathies in view of your approaching difficulties and be assured we shall watch closely and anxiously your course. Be calm and deliberate in all your councils—obey the voice of reason, not hasty and inconsiderate and trust to kind fortune. But whatever be your faith, whatever dangers and trials await you, “never give up the ship” no never; let the clouds of adversity arise and shut out every star of hope, let the storm howl and tempest sweep over you, but dare not haul down the flag of Beta Theta Pi. Should you be worsted in the fight just spread your sails for old Centre’s port one and all and you shall have a long and hearty salute and welcome. The close of the present session will close with me the hallowed scenes of college life and I am even now trying to peer into the cloud of mist that overhangs the future to see where I can steer my frail craft with the least danger. But I shall leave those behind me who will extend to you a warm greeting should you think of coming here. However, I hope the storm which hovers over you will soon break away and that all will be sunshine and peace with you.

Somewhere in our constitution there is a clause to this effect: "That at the end of every six months each chapter shall make out a list of its members and a statement of its prospects, etc., and transmit the same to all the other chapters." Will you be so kind as to send the list of your chapter to us? I don't think this matter has been attended to heretofore as it should have been. If you have none of ours, let me know in your next and I will transmit.

How did you pass your 22d? Had you a celebration? We had a glorious time—plenty of fun, speaking, and abundance of good eating, which loaded our stomachs, but effected a very material and sensible change in the weight and size of our purses. There were two Betas among the orators of the day, who sustained well the honor of the Beta Theta Pi.

Our vacation will be here in July and August and during which time we can attend the tri-annual convention. Let us know in time when you will have it, so that we can send our representative.

HENRY M. SCUDDER, CENTRE, TO WESLEY O. YOUNG, OHIO.

ELIZAVILLE, KY., April 23, 1854.

During a recent absence from here, I received a letter from Brother Rich informing me of my election by the Kappa Chapter to deliver an address on June 21st. I truly regret to inform you of my inability to comply. My engagements for the summer are such as to deny me the very great pleasure of being with you. I thank the brethren for their kind invitation and would have them assured of my very great regret in being compelled to decline.

I wish to state by way of apology, why I have not replied to Brother Rich's letter earlier. I have been absent from home for some time, and I have waited several days with the hope that I might effect such an arrangement as would enable me to comply.

C. T. JAMIESON, JEFFERSON, TO W. W. WILSON, OHIO.

CANONSBURG, PA., May 2nd, 1854.

I am sorry Bro. Shiras is away for he and I were just entering into the spirit of the thing according to last accounts, besides I wanted to tell him about two or three things concerning

our society which, though I can say equally as well to you, I cannot speak with the same amount of freedom. However here goes for a new acquaintance and correspondent I hope. Give me your hand on it. I treated your chapter rather suspiciously at first but it was not in the least from any ill will or want of sympathy on our part, so please, "forget and forgive" as the Bible says. Have you received your pins yet? If so for gracious sake let me know. I say this because I am in a perfect whirl of confusion consequent on the reception of about a dozen or eighteen letters from different chapters (some having written twice and others even thrice) all seemingly demanding immediate answers. They have so accumulated on account of our vacation which lasted through April and my absence from this lively borough during that period. If you have the money ready for their pay please send it on to me *instantly* as Mr. Wilson of Pittsburgh, the gentleman who makes them up is impatient for the money. If you have sent it to him—(I wish that there was a telegraph here)—please write to that effect in an equal hurry—I'll tell you why—I promised him to send the money if he did not receive it from you in a reasonable time—I asked him three or four days ago about it and he said it had not been forthcoming—so I shall have to give it to him out of my own pocket and it will take a *tight* squeeze to do that at the present moment I tell you, for there a'int a cent of change to be found about me as the fellow remarked when asked by the Methodist preacher whether he "felt any *change*" (in his spiritual pockets he meant) though aforesaid fellow happening to have his hands thrust into those of his trousers at the time—thought he had reference to more sublimary and make-the-mare-go affairs. I was a blockhead for not attending to this matter sooner. But the approach of contest which is an exciting event—the wearied out feeling I experienced during the last two weeks of the session just past, and the hurry Brother Shiras put me into in order to get them sent before your society contest came off all combined made me omit it. So must beg pardon for the state they were sent in too. Mr. Wilson wrote me that he had sent them on without the accustomed hands and names in order that they might be received by you at the desired time since it would have been impossible to send them then and have the requisite too, on account of the want of an engraver.

He says he will put all you want on at any time you send them back, free of charge—I hope, this will be satisfactory—

If you have money send it on to *me*.
If you have sent it, tell me so immediately.
If you have it not, please raise it as soon as you can.
If the pins are not there, there will be the devil to pay.
If the pins are there, it's "all right, captain."

DANIEL W. McCLEARY, MIAMI, TO HENRY W. BEESON,
MICHIGAN.

ROSS, BUTLER CO., OHIO, July 22nd, 1854.

Visiting Oxford a few days ago I received from Brother Rogers a letter of yours informing us of the resuscitation of the Zeta chapter of our Fraternity at Michigan. The news was as grateful as it was unexpected, and that Alpha chapter bids you, *all hail!* The letter from you was given to me to answer because I am the oldest member of the Fraternity now within reach of the College, being the second member initiated at the revival of our chapter two years ago. Your chapter never was declared *defunct* but was ordered by the last triennial convention to remain in *statu quo*, as was our chapter also. Your move then is constitutional as well as very grateful to us. Your place among the chapters is as before, *i. e.*, you are still the Zeta Chapter.

You request a history of the order since 1850—I have no records or notes of any kind by me and so I will comply with your request as far as possible by drawing upon my memory. As I have not been in connection with the order except since the spring of 1852 I am not a very good authority on facts prior to that time.

At the time of my joining there were but five chapters in active operation. There were *Beta*, Western Reserve; *Gamma*, Jefferson; *Delta*, Asbury; *Lambda*, Hampden-Sidney and *Iota*¹², Centre. The Alpha after a *trance* of three years owing only to the fact that there was not enough of talent or decency about the College to sustain or deserve a Beta Chapter was revived in the spring of 1852. Since that time we have had uninterrupted pros-

12. In this letter the Centre chapter is called Iota.

perity. Next year we will commence the year with twelve good fellows in attendance and we will be, indisputably the most prominent and powerful secret society in the College.

Last commencement we had an address by the Honorable George Hoadly of Beta Chapter. About the time of the revival of the Alpha chapter a new chapter was established at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N. C. When last heard from it was in a very flourishing condition.

Prior to this, I don't know how long, the Williams College Chapter by a strange defection showed a great want of Beta spirit. The treacherous, heartless, perjured villains pulled down the temple of Betaism which they had pledged to guard—they plowed up the very foundation and sowed the site with salt. In a word they gave notice of a withdrawal from the rest of the order and then, they went (I would say if I could), soul and body, (but they had no soul) over to the A Δ Φ. The graduate members to a man indignantly repudiated their move and refused to sacrifice good faith and friendship to a merely imaginary good. Other chapters of our order have expired, borne down by an accumulation of adversities but their sun went down in honor. At Wabash, Transylvania, Miami, Michigan, and Ohio, chapters expired when they could not live honorably; but it was reserved for the craven hearted deserters at Williams to give the only instance of deliberate perfidy in the Beta Theta Pi. Long may they remain alone in their glory.

In the winter of 1852-53, a chapter was established at the Ohio Wesleyan, Delaware, Ohio, and in the fall following another one at South Hanover, Ind. These chapters are doing well. Last winter we revived the chapter at Ohio University, that institution being in a fair way to revive.

The next triennial convention will meet on the sixteenth of next month in Cincinnati, the delegates are to put up at the *Woodruff House*. You should send a delegate but in case you can't do this you should write to the convention and inform them of the state of your affairs. A letter directed to John W. Herron, Esq., Cincinnati, Ohio, would reach them. The Gamma at Canonsburg, Pa., is the presiding chapter now and it has the whole management of the catalogues. Any communication addressed to C. T. Jamison would be sure of attention. Any funds should

be sent to him. G. P. Thruston is the Recorder of the Alpha chapter.

T. H. ROGERS, MIAMI, TO HENRY W. BEESON, MICHIGAN.

OXFORD, OHIO, July 30, 1854.

I received sometime ago your letter but have not been able sooner to write to you. I am exceedingly happy to learn from you that you have revived the Michigan chapter of our dear association. And I in the name of our chapter most cordially greet yours as one risen from the dead, and we are happy to expect that a chapter which died fighting nobly like men, will now, being revived, go nobly forward in a manner worthy of its former fame. Reviving, as you have, a chapter in a University where there exist two other secret societies, you must at first have some difficulty. But as you say you have the advantage in not having shown your constitution and with care and energy you can do anything. We have great hopes of you and wish you "eternal life" and prosperity. This resurrection of chapters does my soul good. I was feeling very lonely or rather "blue" when I got your letter but that cured me up immediately. This is quite a "time of revival" among Beta chapters. The Athens chapter lately began to breathe again. These "revivals" please me finely. I am by no means a Saducee; I believe in the "*resurrection of the dead.*" It is a doctrine which should be preached to and carried out by Betas. There are three or four chapters which ought—no, *must*, be revived. We must revive, create, go on.

You ask in your letter for a catalogue and state of Society since 1850. I am not able to give all the information you wish, as I have been a member only a few months. I saw lately a Brother who was one of the first to join our chapter after its revival here in 1851 and he said he would write immediately to you giving all the information he could. With regard to what is now the letter of your chapter I can give you no definite answer. On our book I find that you were primarily marked "*Lambda.*"¹³ By the special convention of 1847, you are put down as "*Theta.*"

13. The confusion in names is here apparent. The only reason the matter referred to here is because the letters mention the chapters by the Greek Letter names and unless they are kept in mind they are apt to be referred to the wrong chapter.

At present Theta is given to the Delaware chapter and Zeta to the one at Hampden-Sidney. What you are to be called must be decided by the next convention which meets at Cincinnati on the sixteenth of next month. You should have a delegate there if possible. If you cannot you better send a letter to *J. W. Herron, Esq., of Cincinnati* letting them know that you live and asking to have your letter settled and telling anything you wish done at the Convention. The Records of the chapters are mostly unknown to me at present since they generally change at the end of the session and we have not heard from all the chapters since the changes took place. I will send a list as far as I know.

The proceedings of the Convention of 1851 I send as you desired. The other item of information I suppose Brother McCleary will send you more fully than I could. We would be glad to hear from you often. The chapters do not write to each other often enough. I hope they will get up more spirit.

We would be glad to know more fully about your reorganization. Who of your old members did it? Where was your book while you were dead? What members did you have before your chapter died out? Who is the last of the members of our chapter down on your book? (and we will send the names of the rest). Let us hear from you often.

CHAPTER VIII

FROM THE REVIVAL OF THE MICHIGAN CHAPTER TO THE CONVENTION OF 1856

SAMUEL HAMNER DAVIS, HAMPDEN-SIDNEY, TO DAVID KESSINGER, OHIO.

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, VA.

October 12, 1854.

I have time only for writing a short letter by way of opening a correspondence. I have so much writing to do for Chapter Zeta this week that I am tired. I have sent a list of our members to each Chapter except Eta and Theta. I do not know the name of Theta's recorder.

We now number twelve regular members; one Professor in College; five students of theology and six College students. All the College students are seniors except Carrington, who is a junior.

We have four or five from other classes on scrutiny. We are safe for a large Chapter next year as we can get as many as we wish. All the seminary students except Harrison are graduates of the College. The College is only a quarter of a mile from us so we can easily belong to the same Chapter. It is hard however, to get a good place for meeting. If five seminary students who are known to wear the black badge are seen at the college or six college students are seen here the barbarians will know that we have a meeting. We have had three meetings this season in the room of one of the College Professors. Two of the Professors belong to Gamma Chapter (Jefferson College) and one to ours.

I received the minutes of the Triennial Convention last week. By these we learned of your resuscitation. We send you a list of all your members new and old. We heartily welcome you back to our number.

I suppose you will soon receive from the Presiding Chapter an application for your consent for establishing a Chapter at the

University of Virginia. If you write before Delta writes to you, just say that you are willing. Three of our old members are there now and others will be next year.

SAMUEL HAMNER DAVIS, HAMPDEN-SIDNEY, TO HENRY W. BEESON, MICHIGAN.

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, VA., October 12, 1854.

I learned of your existence last week from the minutes of the Triennial Convention. It devolves on me now to make a report of the present condition of our Chapter. I sent you the names of all our members from its foundation—thirty-one in all. We have now twelve regular members, one a professor in College, five students of Theology (all except Harrison, graduates of Hampden-Sidney) and six college students, *all members of church*. Carrington is in the Junior class, the rest are Seniors. We lost three members at the close of last session. Last night however we initiated the last two on the list. Dr. Green, President of the College has been elected and informed but he hasn't been initiated yet. Professors Martin and Wilson were Greeks at Jefferson College so the whole faculty know of our proceedings. Our last three meetings were in Professor Martin's room.

We now have four or five on scrutiny, so that we can easily swell our list. We don't desire too large a number, though, owing to the difficulty we find in meeting secretly. It is hard for Seminary Students to go to the College or for college students to come over here at night without being suspected. The barbarians know that there is a secret society in College, and they know most of the members, but they know nothing more.

You will soon be called on to give your consent to a chapter at the University of Virginia. Three of our men are there now, others will go next year.

MILES C. WILSON, JEFFERSON, TO DAVID KESSINGER, OHIO.

CANONSBURG, PA., November 1, 1854.

Your letter of the 7th ult., came to hand on the 20th. It was on the road rather long for such a short distance. By the way you made a mistake in the middle initial of my name. You

wrote it "G." and it should have been "C." There is a student here by the name of A. G. Wilson. He got the letter out of the office and opened it, but did not read it.

We have not taken any into the chapter this session. We have elected three, two of them will be initiated the beginning of next week. The other one belongs to another secret Society and will not of course be taken in. He was not informed of his election, consequently he don't know that he was elected. He had not been initiated into the Society when he was spoken to on the subject, but had given his consent. He told our member that spoke to him that if he did not like the society he would leave. But, I think we will not likely take him in even if he should withdraw from it, though he is a good fellow. I am sorry that he is in with the crowd that compose the society. They are rather a hard set of fellows. The society goes by the name of "Skull & Bones." It has not been in existence very long. There are four Secret Societies in College. But the B Θ II stands preeminent. It is the great center around which the others revolve.

I spoke in my former letter that we had taken in two students of Washington College, Pa.; B. L. Agnew, of Sharon, Pa., and J. F. Craig of Emlinton, Pa. Washington is only seven miles from here. The College is in a pretty flourishing condition. We think something of establishing a chapter here, if it meets with the approval of the other chapters, of the association. Agnew and Craig, say there are some fine fellows there whom they would like to see become members and who would be willing to become members of an association of this character. There is a secret society there, the Phi Gamma Delta, but they would not join it. We think we will likely initiate those at Washington into our Chapter, and if the rest of the chapters consent to establishing a Chapter there then they can do it.

We wish you would inform us in regard to the establishing of a Chapter at Washington. Would you approve of it? Our Chapter has not yet fully determined to establish a Chapter there. But I think if there is nothing in the way, that we will consent to the establishing of one there. We will not agree until we are fully convinced of the expediency of the measure. You may think that we should fully determine this matter before asking the consent of the other Chapters but our reasons are these: It requires con-

siderable time to get the consent of all the Chapters. Sometimes it causes great delay after the time has come that a Chapter should be founded. So you will please inform us in your next answer.

What class are you in? Are you much of a ladies' man? Are you prone to wander forth after Old Sol has disappeared beneath the Western horizon and have a social talk with the fair daughters of Mother Eve? Is such your inclination? I dare say the latter interrogatory can all be answered with a single word and that is the one which the lady Margaret said was the only one with which a lady could fully and adequately express her meaning when a certain question was proposed to her by a young man; *vis.*, "yes." I am not much given to the practice of calling on young ladies at Canonsburg. I never cared much about it though there are some pretty fine ladies here. But there are none here that quite fills my eye. There is one that lives beyond the Alleghenies, who will compare very favorably with any that live in this place. I may be prejudiced, but I think not. I was accustomed to go to school with her in the early part of my academical course. She possesses talents of the first order. She contains the wisdom of Minerva, the beauty of Helen, and the gracefulness of Aspasia. She is what people term "an angel in human form." She has been at Mt. Holyoke Seminary, Mass. One of the best Seminaries in the East and will graduate in another year.

DAVID FITCH, WESTERN RESERVE, TO DAVID KESSINGER, OHIO.

HUDSON, OHIO, November 7, 1854.

I hereby acknowledge receipt of yours of October 30th. Though we are strangers to each other yet I see by the spirit of your letter that you are a genuine Greek, and I feel quite fraternally towards you. I, like you, am the only Beta in this College at present, and whether we receive any additions this year or not depends on my success in electioneering.

Several untoward influences stand in the way of our speedy resuscitation. One is its present exceedingly small size; and another the presence of a lodge of the Equitable (?) Fraternity who by their slanders have done us considerable injury. A third is the conflict, which has been carried for two years between the

President and the College; his adherents on one side, and his foes on the other. This drawback on the prosperity of the College caused the resignation of two of the Professors two years ago and the disbanding of the two upper classes which contained all but two of the members of our Chapter. Since that time three of the Professorships have been filled and things have been in a measure restored. But our Chapter remains in *statu quo*. We numbered three members last year, one resident graduate filling the office of tutor, one senior and myself, a junior. The senior graduated at the last commencement. The other member has gone and I am the only member remaining on the ground. I shall use strong exertions to establish our Chapter on a firm foundation during the year, and hope I may succeed.

I have received letters from Jefferson, Chapel Hill, Hampden-Sidney and Crawfordsville. All of whom are in a fine condition. How is the catalog flourishing? I see by the proceedings of the Convention that the Alpha Chapter is to shoulder the burden and "secure" the publication of the catalog at the earliest possible date. I hope it will be speedy for the coming.

VAN B. CARTER, CENTRE, TO GATES P. THRUSTON, MIAMI.

DANVILLE, KY., November 11th, 1854.

Your favor was received last night, and after a brief delay I answer it. Enclosed I send you the minutes of the last Triennial Convention. They ought to have been furnished you long since. It is, however, no fault of mine. Brother Urmston was to have copied them and sent them out. But for various reasons he procrastinated till a few days ago, and then reported to me that it was impossible for him to do the copying, in consequence of a multiplicity of labors at the Theological Seminary. Knowing it ought to be done, altho' I didn't fancy the job, I undertook it. I have as yet been able to make out but three copies, which I will dispatch to-day; the rest I will furnish the chapters in a few days. This explanation, I hope, will be sufficient to exculpate me and the chapter I have the honor to represent.

In reference to the minutes, I have only to say that our chapter has approved of them with a single exception, which is supposed to be an error of the Recording Secretary, to-wit: The ad-

dition to Art. 10th, of Constitution, reads as reported in the minutes—"Each chapter shall send at least one delegate to each Convention." Bro. McKee, who was in the Convention, and who suggested the thing, states that, as adopted by the Convention, the addition should read thus: "Each chapter shall defray the expenses of at least one delegate to each Convention." This we regard as a very important part of the proceedings. We, therefore, object to it, unless it can be corrected by the Secretary, to whom we have written; with this exception, we do heartily approve the whole.

You will notice that it devolves on your chapter to attend to the publication of the much-talked-of catalogue. I hope you will get right at it, and have them printed at the earliest moment. If we can assist you, our hand is at your service.

I have been so busily engaged this session that I have been able to do but little correspondence for my chapter. I have more time now, and intend to open a correspondence with every chapter of the association. I shall answer with pleasure and promptness all epistles you may choose to honor us with.

It affords me pleasure to say that our chapter is flourishing finely; we have about 18 regular members—all good fellows. Besides, we have several new petitions. We have some opposition. But competition is the life of trade. From all the chapters I get favorable news.

Let me return the salutatory bow, take an imaginary grasp of your hand, and swear eternal friendship. Allow me to use a little familiarity, and call you *Gates*. Write soon.

MILES C. WILSON, JEFFERSON, TO AUGUSTUS E. CHESTNUT,
MICHIGAN.

CANONSBURG, November 11, 1854.

BROTHER CHESTNUT:—Your letter of the 4th inst. is before me; came to hand on the 9th. Without any formal introduction, or any inquiries who you are and what may be the peculiarities of your corporal structure, etc., I'll proceed to have a chat with you on business topics, and by the time we have finished we will doubtless know more about each other—if we observe the little incidents and follow the course of conversation and mark the

turns that it may take. I am like you in regard to letter writing—I don't like the half of the letters to be filled with apologies—I like to dive *in medias res* at once. First as to official business. I was pleased to hear of the re-organization of the Lambda chapter, and that the future is full of hope for it. The Lambdas did a noble and manly deed when the faculty demanded their constitution. It savored of the spirit of those who, in other times, signed their names to the "Declaration of Independence," determined to stand by and defend the principles contained therein though the penalty would be their life. Such instances display a heroism far more ennobling and praiseworthy than that which characterized a Cæsar or a Napoleon. The Lambdas were contending for truth and principle, while Cæsar and Napoleon contended for fame and the crown of an empire.

I wish you success in the cause of Betaism. Be careful to admit none but those who are truly worthy; those who would scorn to do a mean action, and are found ready to engage in every thing that will promote the interests of their fellow men. They, and they alone, are worthy to be enrolled among the number of those that make up the number of the Beta Theta Pi. Composed of such men she need not fear. They are the men that move by their influence the machinery of government. Their influence must be felt and must produce a salutary effect upon the circle in which they move. Such, I hope, may ever be the character of those who are admitted to membership in our association. Such were its founders. We are beginning to see its members holding high positions of honor and trust among their fellow-men.

In looking over the catalogue of our members (members of our chapter), I see many of them now occupying high places in the learned professions. They are found in every profession. If you go to the halls of Congress, you will find them there, lending their aid and assisting by their counsels in framing wholesome and wise laws for the government of our great Commonwealth. If you go to the "learned bench," you there find them dispensing justice to their fellow mortals. If you inquire for them at the "bar," you may have a host pointed out to you who are there engaged in defending the rights of their fellow-men. If you seek for them in the "medical profession," you will find them there,

ready with their healing mixtures to administer to the sufferings which human nature is heir to. If you enter the "sacred desk," you will find them there warning and entreating their fellow-men to make their peace with God. If you go to the "prof.'s chair," you will find them there, endeavoring to unfold to the expanding intellect the mysteries of science. If you go to India, you will find them there, endeavoring to point the dark and benighted heathen to the only way of salvation. In a word, where will you go that you will not find them? Echo sends back the answer, where!

Such is only one chapter of the association, and the members of other chapters may also be found in the same positions. I sent brother Beeson an address delivered by one of your members before the religious societies of our college. Rev. N. West was the gentleman that delivered it. He is a popular preacher; is now preaching in Cincinnati, Ohio; is a warm friend of Betaism.

At our last meeting we took in three new members: Messrs. Orr Lawson, Clarion Co., Pa., J. A. Beaver, Belleville, Pa., and W. L. Wallace, Canonsburg, Pa.—the two former in the junior class, the latter in soph. We also determined to ask the other chapters to give their consent to the establishing of a chapter at Washington College, Pa. I stated in a former letter that we had taken into our chapter two students from that college. They both graduated in the last class. The college is in a flourishing condition. There are not as many in number as some colleges, it is true, but it is a good institution, and bids fair to become one of the best institutions of the West. We are very anxious to have one there. Washington is seven miles from this place. We visit there very often, and their students do the same to our town. Besides this reason for asking the consent, which we would not consider sufficient, there are a number there who are anxious to become members of an association like ours. Agnew and Craig (the two students that we took into our chapter from that college), are anxious that a chapter should be established there. They say that there is the right sort of material there, and they are good authority. They are both clever fellows. Both were in last contest and took honors. The latter took part of first honor of his class. They say that there are two of those that would join the chapter on next contest, and another will

take the first honor of his class. Such are the kind of fellows that are there ready to go into the chapter as soon as formed. I hope that the consent of your chapter will be given in favor of establishing a chapter there. I have set forth the state of the college and the character of its pupils that you may know what you are doing—not to be compelled to act without knowing the particulars. You will please take action in this matter at as early a date as possible, and let us hear from you.

You wish to know the recorders of the different chapters. I'll give you as far as I know: Recorder of Alpha chapter, G. P. Thruston; of Beta, D. Fitch; of Delta, Ira G. Grover; of Epsilon, V. B. Carter; of Zeta, E. H. Harding; of Eta, J. R. Gatling; Theta, I don't know; of Iota, H. Keigwin; of Kappa, D. Kessinger. If you are writing to any of the other chapters, you will confer a favor if you mention the above matter in regard to the establishing of a chapter at Washington. We wish to get the consent and organize the chapter, if it meets with the approval of all the other chapters, at the close of their present session which will be on the 19th of next month. Their contest comes off on that day, also. You will think this rather a dry letter by the time you have got through with it. I am not in a very good mood for writing this morning—have a very bad cold. I generally talk some about the women—ladies, I mean, but we call them all women here. Are you a ladies' man? Is there some fine daughter of Mother Eve that has your heart in her possession? What class are you in? I'll tell you something about the times we have with the women in my next. Give me a description of your personal appearance. Gamma sends greeting to Lambda. Write soon, very soon.

WILLIAM C. LARKIN, CUMBERLAND, TO DAVID KESSINGER, OHIO.

LEBANON, TENN., November 11, 1854.

The Mu Chapter of Beta Theta Pi was organized at the above named place the 20th of October, 1854, and being recorder of the same it is obligatory upon me not constitutionally but by custom to inform other Chapters. Hence this letter. We have high hopes for a flourishing Chapter at this place. Everything indicates it.

MILES C. WILSON, JEFFERSON, TO DAVID KESSINGER, OHIO.

CANONSBURG, PA., NOV. 14, 1854.

I wrote you on the first inst., but as I have some business of importance to attend to, I'll write a short letter today. At our last meeting our Chapter gave its consent to establish a Chapter at Washington College, Pa. Washington College is in a flourishing condition. I think there are those there that would do honor to our Association. We took the students into our Chapter as I stated in my letter to you from that College. They are very anxious to have a Chapter there. We wish you to give your consent if the measure seems advisable to your Chapter. I hope it may meet with your hearty approval as I have no doubt it will with all the other Chapters. You will confer a great favor by taking action immediately on the above and transmitting to us the results of your action. We wish to organize the Chapter if approved by the others about the middle of next month.

If you can find the name of the Recorder at Theta Chapter you will oblige me very much by letting me know. I don't know what state that Chapter is in. At our last meeting we took into our Chapter three new members, *viz.*, Orr Lawson, Clarion County, Pa., J. A. Beaver, Belleville, Pa. and W. L. Weller, Canonsburg. Please let me hear soon.

GATES P. THRUSTON, MIAMI, TO AUGUSTUS E. CHESTNUT,
MICHIGAN.

OXFORD, O., November 25th, 1854.

Your most welcome letter was received, and read before our Chapter sometime since, but owing to our not having the minutes of the last Triennial Convention, I concluded to wait until I received them, that my answer might be more satisfactory. We sent four delegates to the Convention, but unfortunately three of them were seniors who have not returned this session, and the fourth a Junior is also absent this session, so we have had no one to tell us the proceedings of the meeting, and of course knew nothing of the duty we had to perform.

The Convention was held at an inconvenient time for us, in the very middle of our vacation, when we were scattered all

over the country. Had it met near the commencement or end of our vacation we would have sent twenty delegates. But I wrote for the minutes, and we now have them, and intend to do what has been allotted to us, as well as we are able.

You know, I suppose, we are to publish the catalogue. I dread the thought of undertaking this work, which has been so long talked of, and has so often neared its consummation, but it must be *really* finished now as soon as possible. The Gamma chapter at Canonsburgh commenced the work more than a year ago and have sent us the lists and material they collected. But they are imperfect as yet, and it would be but a burlesque to publish them as they are, so I will transmit a copy each to the several Chapters to which they belong, for *immediate* revision, and unless they are returned in due season, with appropriate revision, we will publish the uncorrected lists, as we have them. In this you will find your own *copy*, and *list*. They are the names of your own Chapter, before it became *extinct*. If you have a better list make the corrections, as follows:

First: Name. *Second*: Occupation. *Third*: Present residence. *Fourth*: The year in which they became members of the Association.

You are now in the midst of these Betas, and can perhaps tell us their professions. At any rate correct the list I send you, as well as you are able, of course giving with it the names of your members since your resuscitation, and send it to us as soon as you are able. We have now two hundred dollars "Catalogue money," and it is perhaps enough for the purpose, but a "*little more*" I think, would enable us to get it up in better style, so if it is convenient—*entirely so*—you might send us your quota. You, of course, can judge better than we can what your share is. You gave no list of your present members in your letter, be sure and give them in your list.

You cannot tell with what pleasure we hailed the revival of your Chapter. I believe that Michigan University is going to be the finest institution in the West, if it is not that now. Its ample revenue and present prosperity give it a fair start over all others, and what a shame it would be if it were a College only of barbarians—without a Beta there to *enlighten* them? How badly the Alphas must feel at the thought of the lasting stain that

marks their past history at Ann Arbor, and how pleasant it is for you now to look down upon them in your integrity.

The conduct of our members in defending themselves against the faculty at your University and at Wabash College, is more to boast of than a thousand members, who have shown themselves to be without the true Greek spirit.

You say the Alphas are a motley crowd with you. I can hardly describe the ones we have here. They seem to have so little judgment in the selection of members that they are altogether without respect. We have so crowded them out of the course that to sustain themselves they have initiated about one-half of the grammar school in the hope of undermining us. They have several members, twelve or thirteen years old, perfect little infants. In the present senior class they have but a single member, and when he leaves they will fly off in a tangent.

I must not forget their Constitution. If we thought them gentlemen we would not wish to know a word of their internal affairs, but as we have a very different opinion of them, as we know them to be plotting, and underhanded, it would be very pleasant for us to be able to quote a few passages from that most admirable production, so do let us have a copy as soon as possible, and I am sure they will never aspire to probe the mysteries of Betaism again.

Our Chapter was never in a more flourishing condition. We have thirteen members, I send you the names marked in our catalogue. The number is large, but we are a *unit*. Our members work with the zeal and *affection* of the Knights of Malta or the faithful templars of old.

I will give you the names of a few Recorders:

K David Kessinger, Athens, Ohio.

Θ Charles Parrott, Delaware, Ohio.

I Harry Keigwin, Hanover, Ind.

M W. C. Larkin, Lebanon, Tenn.

I suppose you know the names of the others. Do try to write to *Charles Parrott* of Theta and to the others, as they need encouragement. I do nothing but write, write, write. You cannot imagine what a bother the Catalogue is, as far as the labor is concerned.

I suppose you have heard of the new Chapter at Lebanon, Tenn. It already consists of twelve choice spirits.

I find that you want a full list of Recorders. The remainder are as follows:

- B David Fitch, Hudson, Ohio.
- Δ Ira G. Grover, Greencastle, Ind.
- E Van B. Carter, Danville, Ky.
- H James R. Gatling, Chapel Hill, N. C.
- Z S. Hamner Davis, Hampden Sidney, Va.
- Γ Miles C. Wilson, Canonsburg, Pa.

GATES P. THRUSTON, MIAMI, TO DAVID KESSINGER, OHIO.

OXFORD, OHIO, November 26th, 1854.

I hope you have not measured our friendship towards you by my long delay which I assure you I am very much ashamed of. I have waited as long a time also to hear from you but it seems that the Fates are adverse to our correspondence and I must break the spell so here ends my preface. I have been waiting ever since the beginning of the Triennial convention that I might be able to write more interesting and satisfactory letters to our different recorders but patience ceased to be a virtue and I wrote to the Epsilon Chapter and they at last transmitted the minutes to us.

We had four regular members as delegates to the convention—three graduating seniors who of course do not return this term and the fourth the most renowned John J. Glenn of whom you may perhaps have heard something. John is now out teaching so we have no one here to tell us of the whole proceedings of the convention—the meeting was held at a time very unfortunate for us—in the very middle of our long summer vacation—when our members were scattered almost to the uttermost parts of the earth. I was very anxious to attend but the 16th of August found me rambling around in the surf at Cape May—800 miles away from Cincinnati, and as I passed the whole summer East—

At any rate I was not there as I intended, but now we have the minutes of the convention and are as well acquainted with what transpired perhaps—as those present.

To us is assigned that most laborious task the publication of the catalogue—and we are of course going to try to perform our

duty as well, and as soon as we are able. To this end I send you the list we have of your chapter, which I find is very imperfect. I send it to you for correction. If you can revise it, or improve it in any way do so immediately and send it right back to us. We will keep a copy of each list so if the revised one does not come soon enough we will be compelled to publish what we have. Send the order thus: 1st, *name*—2nd, *occupation*—3rd, *residence*—4th, *year of initiation*. You live in the midst of your old members and will be able to correct the list at least in some respects.

Be careful also to send it soon, as soon as possible so that the glorious work may meet with no hindrance. I suppose you have heard of the birth of a sister branch at Lebanon, Tennessee. The recorder is W. C. Larkin. Do write to him as soon as convenient for they all there seem to be inspired with the true Greek spirit. James M. Safford, State Geologist of Tennessee resides there. He is of your chapter and no doubt is *faithful* to the holy cause. Our order is now in a most flourishing condition and we must hope for a bright and glorious future. Here we have already overpowered all opposition. The Alphas are but a conglomerated mass of infant grammar school specimens whose only hope of existence is by stooping down into the preparatory department and trying to undermine us. They have but one senior and when he goes the little "*cusses*" will fly off in a tangent line. The Delta Kappa Epsilons have almost *pegged out* and the few members they have are without judgment or respect.

In fact both Alphas and Deltas have publicly admitted our superiority. We number eighteen—rather a large one for a secret society but we are a unit and where there is perfect harmony twenty members can be as true and as useful as ten. They work with the zeal of the most holy knights of Malta or the faithful Templars of olden times.

I hope you are flourishing and prosperous. When you return the list tell us all about yourselves; how many you are; how you are faring and all about your prospects and condition. Try to write to us and to all the chapters as often as possible. I would have written to you long ere this, but for want of *those* minutes, for I enjoy nothing more than writing to a true *Greek*. You cannot imagine the difficulties in getting up our catalogue, and the amount of scribbling I have done for our order, but I

really have so much to do that I cannot write my letters with any satisfaction, interest to others or credit to myself.

I will give you a list of the recorders as well as I know them: *Alpha*, G. P. Thruston, *Beta*, David Fitch, Hudson, Ohio; *Gamma*, Miles C. Wilson, Canonsburgh, Pa.; *Delta*, Ira G. Grover, Greencastle, Ind.; *Epsilon*, Van B. Carter, Danville, Ky.; *Zeta*, S. Hamer Davis, Hampden-Sidney, Va.; *Eta*, James R. Gatling, Chapel Hill, N. C.; *Theta*, Charles Parrott, Delaware, Ohio; *Lambda*, A. G. Chestnut, Ann Arbor, Mich.; *Mu*, W. C. Larkin, Lebanon, Tenn.; *Iota*, Harry Keigwin, Hanover, Ind.

I believe they are all correct. I wrote to Brother Shiras the other day and I received an answer yesterday. He seems to be a most glorious Beta.

MILES C. WILSON, JEFFERSON, TO HENRY W. BEESON, MICHIGAN.

CANONSBURG, PA., December 15, 1854.

Your letter of the 15th inst., came to hand a few days since. I was somewhat surprised when I received it. I'll take up your letter in order.

First in regard to the founding of a chapter at Washington, Pa. You say that your chapter had laid the matter on the table, until you would hear more about the College. I thought I gave you a pretty full account of it when I wrote you, asking the consent of your Chapter. I'll give you a full account before I close this letter. You state that in reading over my letters you observe that we wish to know your action by the 18th of this month in regard to the founding of a Chapter at Washington and then you immediately say, that you concluded to write and let me know your determination. You don't say whether you convened the Chapter and got their sentiments on the subject or not. I presume you did. I confess I was not much elated with your decision, and still less by the manner in which you expressed it, as you make it very emphatic. But I'll say something more on this subject before I close.

Your Chapter seems to think that we have got sufficient chapters and don't think it will ever give their consent to establish another, unless it be in an "institution of the very first-class and the students of the most brilliant talent." I would ask you if this

accords with the spirit of the Constitution? Does not the Constitution say that the Association should be extended? So to what other cause can your chapter and ours and all except Miami attribute their existence, unless to that principle in the Constitution. Had Miami which founded the Association said that they would not establish chapters in any "institution" except those "of the very first class" and with "students of the most brilliant talents," to use your own language—where would the B @ II be now? I do not speak for any other institution except our own. I know there would never have been a chapter at "Old Jefferson." Yet I contend that her Alumni are filling high positions in the learned professions. I do not say that they are all, but a great many of them, and especially those that belong to the B @ II.

I think that if your chapter will reconsider the matter it will not adopt the principle of non-extension. You will not consider these remarks as having any particular reference to Washington. I have just given my views on the subject of extension. I am heartily in favor of a judicious extension. I have no fears that the Association if judiciously extended, will become *unwieldly*.

I think that plans and measures can be devised for the effectual carrying out of all business. We have in our United States an instance of this. Extension of territory had its opposers, but where would be our great Republic, the pride of every American, if it had not been for this principle of extension? Confined to thirteen little colonies—or perhaps swallowed up by some other nation. The B @ II *must* be extended. As I said before it must be done judiciously.

I will now give you a full account of Washington College and our reasons for wishing to establish a Chapter there. The subject of establishing a Chapter there was mentioned by one of our members about five months ago. We had the thing under consideration for about five months before we came to a final conclusion on the subject. We viewed the subject in all its various phases and finally came to the conclusion to ask the consent of the other Chapters, having first given ours. I stated that we took in two students from that College who graduated in the last class. They are both at the Theological Seminary, Allegheny City, Pa. They stood high in their literary societies and in College both

being on contest and took honors, and one of them took part of first honor in his class. The other made the best speech of any that was made at Commencement. They will both be heard of in our ecclesiastical assemblies, or I am no prophet. From these two we have been able to learn the character of the students at Washington. They say that there are several there they would like very much to see members of the B Θ II. They are among the best in College both in class and in society. I am slightly acquainted with some of them myself. And some of our members are very well acquainted with them. Washington is only seven miles from this place, consequently the students of Jefferson are often in Washington and vice versa. It would be very pleasant for our Chapter to have one in Washington on this account. But this is not the only consideration. We think the institution is worthy of having established in it a Chapter of the B Θ II, notwithstanding you may never have heard much about it. It has always been a respectable institution, and is now on a fair way to become one of the first in the West. They have endowed it lately to the amount of \$150,000, consequently there will be an increase of students, it even now has more than your own worthy institution.

If on consideration of this matter you can *conscientiously* give your consent to establish a Chapter there you will not only confer a favor on Gamma but also on the Association at large. All the Chapters that we have heard from have given their consent and heartily approve of establishing a Chapter there. The Chapters heard from are Alpha, Beta, Eta, Zeta, Kappa, Mu, and Iota.

In regard to the founding of the Mu Chapter. It was done by the Eta. They asked our consent last July and we gave it. They also applied some time ago to us to consent to another at Georgetown, Ky., but we did not give our consent to that. We may yet, if all things are right. We will write to them for more information on the subject. I believe the Institution at Georgetown, Ky., is a military Institution, if so, I think the Constitution will prohibit the founding of one there—as I think the Constitution is explicit on this subject. It says that Chapters shall be established in Colleges where it may be deemed expedient by all the existing Chapters.

In regard to our Chapter having to send a *correct copy* of the Constitution to all the other Chapters—I think if you examine the proceedings you will find it is not up to *our* Chapter. I'll quote from the proceedings of the Convention what they say on this subject,

“Whereas from the statements of the delegates, there seems to be some discrepancies between the copies of the Constitution in the possession of the different Chapters. The Recorder of Alpha Chapter, as soon as possible after the adjournment of this Convention, shall transmit to the Recorder of the Presiding Chapter a correct copy of the Constitution, modifying the original draft by the action of the several Conventions up to this time and that the Recorder of the Presiding Chapter shall then furnish a correct copy to all the other Chapters of the Association.”

Does this say that *we* are to furnish the *correct copy*? Certainly not. Our Chapter is not Presiding Chapter now—Delta is Presiding.

I have not heard from Delta this session. I have written twice to them. You can rely upon it that the Recorder of Gamma will do his duty. I have written about forty letters within the last two months for the Chapter and sent copies of the proceedings of the Convention to six of the Chapters, and many of the letters were long. I have used up about five quires of paper this session. You can judge then that my pen has not been idle I mean I have written this much in the way of letters. Our session has not been long either—only twelve weeks. We will have a vacation of better than two weeks which will commence tomorrow as the next session will commence on the 1st of January, 1855.

There is another item mentioned in your letter. In regard to your designation. Your Chapter was declared in *statu quo* by a Convention—and during the time it was in *statu quo* there was a new Chapter founded and your designation given to it—if you will observe the minutes closely you will see that they say “*hereafter* when a Chapter is declared defunct it thereby loses its seal and designation, but until so declared it still retains its name and seal.” However in regard to you it is somewhat differ-

ent. It may be considered as applying in *ex post facto* law. You cannot attach any blame to our Chapter though. The Convention must bear the blame.

I believe I have now examined all the points in your letter. I wish your Chapter to give the Washington subject fresh consideration. Though you may not have heard very much about the institution. The facts of the case are that Colleges in the present day are not considered in the light that they used to be. They used to be considered very good if you heard much about them beyond a circumscribed area. Now, they are becoming so plenty that students get their education at home, as it were. I dare say if you ask your students about our Institution you will find very few of them know much about it although it is the oldest Institution in the West.

I must tell you a little anecdote that illustrates my point. Last winter Horace Mann, President of an institution in Ohio, was elected by the Literary societies here to deliver a University address, at the close of last year, before the societies. The secretary in writing to him gave "Jefferson College" as the caption of his letter of course, supposing that Mr. Mann would certainly know where to direct his reply. Well, he received the letter and was puzzled to know where to direct his reply. He finally made out the post office mark, "Canonsburg, Pa." Though he did not seem to know much about our College, at least we inferred this from the letter he wrote in reply.

I almost forgot to tell you about the catalogue. You will see from the minutes of the last Triennial Convention how the names are to be arranged, I sent you a copy of the proceedings on the 26th of September. You did not state whether you had received them. You will make out a list as follows: Give the names of the individuals, his profession, whatever it may be, whether Lawyer, Doctor, or what not, give his present occupation—(many of those who have studies professions are engaged in other occupations—some teaching)—give their present residence and the year in which they became members of the Chapter. If any of your members are dead, mark them by some character as they are to be printed in Italics in the Catalogue and send the list to Alpha Chapter. That Chapter has the arranging of the matter for the catalogue.

G. P. THRUSTON, MIAMI, TO H. W. BEESON, MICHIGAN.

DAYTON, January 8, 1855.

Your brotherly letter was forwarded to me the other day from Oxford, and I proceed to answer it, though I have but a moment's time. When I return to the University I will attend to those corrections you mentioned. Many thanks for the constitution of the Alpha Delta Phi. Of course "Old Eells & Co." get their reward as to the spelling, though I cannot now remember any mis-spelled words. I would like very much to see their present constitution, though I don't imagine that it has been materially changed; for I think the material they have now would about make just such another one.

How is the "Fusion Party" getting along? Don't unite yourselves too closely with the barbarians. Don't get a name for *cliquing* for it may injure your holy cause. Bringing secret society affairs into literary societies is very unpopular at Oxford. Be careful not to electioneer as a secret society for your own members too much, and whatever you do in your literary societies, give it the charm of secrecy and you will accomplish much more than openly. Excuse advice, but I have watched these movements for four years, and been a Beta three years, so that I am pretty well posted. One of our sister rival literary societies has been almost entirely broken up by the cliques and contentions of secret societies, though we had no part in it, and the barbarians say they have "great respect" for us.

You remember you spoke in a former letter of "by-laws," and I promised and fully intended to send them to you immediately; but, on looking over our record book, I find that they have not been revised for ten years past, so I am ashamed to send them to you, they are so imperfect and antiquated. Upon my return I will try and have a committee appointed to revise them, etc. You know such things have been handed down from our foundation—from generation to generation—so that all get familiar with our *modus operandi* without reference to the book. I don't suppose, however, that any one will object to having a regular code written down. Your common sense can easily tell you all that is necessary—at least for the present. Did I ever speak to you of establishing a chapter at Knox College (Ill.), a State institution, and the best one in the State, too. I think we

can start the wheel. You know among so many good fellows we ought to have a few "suckers." What do you say?

We are trying to push the catalogue through as soon as possible; but I can't tell exactly when it will make its appearance. We are trying to start a chapter at old Marietta. For ten years past she has been impenetrable to all, but I think ere long we can *stick* her. She has been elected once, but what say you now to her?

But I must bid you good-bye. If any of your brothers ever come within a hundred miles of us let them make themselves known, for our faith in Betaism is strong. My love to all the boys, much to yourself.

THOMAS WHAREY, HAMPDEN SIDNEY, TO DAVID KESSINGER,
OHIO.

HAMPDEN SIDNEY, VA., January 20, 1855.

At our last meeting I was promoted to the office of recorder and I have been a little surprised to find, knowing Brother Davis' punctual habits that he has on hand a good many unanswered letters, and though I suspect the true reason to be his assiduous attentions of late to certain fair individuals or (individual) in our vicinity, he is very ready in giving excuses of hard study, etc., etc.

I am sorry to hear that your Chapter has of late declined in numbers and interest and I hope that your next report will be more encouraging. Our association is too good a one ever to lose ground where it has been once established.

This session a rival Society has sprung up in College called the "Tulip Crowd" founded by some fellows here, who were a little chagrined because they were not initiated into "The Black Badge Crowd" as we are called. They wear a gold badge in the shape of a tulip, with certain letters carved on it, thought to be the initials of the founders of the Society.

I will now give you the name of the members whom we have received last year. You perhaps already have the names of the first two.

Edward W. Carrington, Charlotte, Va.; Thomas W. Hooper, Richmond, Va.; Robert Carrington, Charlotte, Va.; Edgar J. Moseley, Buckingham, Va.; M. W. Michaud, Jr., Powhatan, Va.; John Richardson, Louisa, Va.

MILES C. WILSON, JEFFERSON, TO DAVID KESSINGER, OHIO.

CANONSBURG, PA., January 20, 1855.

Our chapter is in a flourishing condition. We number twelve members all of the right stamp. We had a meeting on last Wednesday evening. You would have been amused and instructed to have listened to the recital of the doings of each one during the vacation. Our fellows are all fond of the women and even the recorder is not an exception. I think there are but very few Betas that are not, but the recorder at Danville is an exception (he says) I spent a glorious time. I had not been at home during the holiday season for three years, consequently it was something of a novelty, and that is the season for fun in the country. I am a native of Central Pennsylvania. I was raised in the country, a son of a farmer. I was wont in former days to follow the plough and still work a little on the farm in vacation for exercise.

We have not yet organized the Chapter at Washington College. We have everything ready and will dispatch a delegate to Washington soon to raise the steam. We might have had it established some time since but we were laboring under a mistake. We thought it required the consent of *all* the existing chapters but we received a revised copy of the Constitution the other day and saw from it that it only requires three-fourths.

The constitution was sent to us by Delta Chapter. They are to send copies to all the Chapters but the recorder of Delta has been unwell for some time and could not attend to any business. The Chapter that was lately established at Lebanon, Tennessee, is flourishing. I have two nice letters from them. They seem to go into matters with a true Grecian spirit. I wish them success.

HENRY W. BEESON, MICHIGAN, TO DAVID KESSINGER, OHIO.

ANN ARBOR, MICH., January 27, 1855.

The question is, who owes an apology, you or I? Well, to save time, and rather than fill up a page with excuses, we will both acknowledge ourselves a little to blame. It is too bad to have six months pass away without hearing from you or you from us. But, it can't be helped. In regard to the success, of our chapter, you are aware that it has but lately been reorganized and you could not therefore expect much. We have, however, succeeded

as well, if not better, than we anticipated. We have now five active members, *viz.*:

Charles Toll, Monroe, Mich.; G. W. Waldron, Pontiac, Mich.; W. W. Wheeler, Burlington, Vermont; E. Schmid, Ann Arbor, Mich. and Henry W. Beeson, Niles, Mich.

Augustus E. Chestnut of Lafayette, Ind.; one of our most zealous members, is lost to us forever. He went home to spend the holidays and was taken sick as soon as he reached home and in two days was a corpse. Coming as death did in the very midst of our fraternal circle, it made this affliction doubly severe. We shall ever miss one who became endeared to us by everything, which can attach friend to friend, brother to brother, and heart to heart. Resolutions were sent to his parents and friends, our badges being worn with crape for thirty days. I mail with this letter a catalogue of this institution. Please send one of yours. We know but little of Ohio Colleges here. What college ranks first and has the most students? Western Reserve College I suppose is the oldest.

BENTON J. HALL, MIAMI, TO DAVID KESSINGER, OHIO.

February 11th, 1855.

Our secretary being engaged in preparing our catalogue for publication I have been requested to write to the Chapters, asking their sanction and approval for the establishment of a chapter at Knox College, Ills., which is one of the first and thorough going Institutions in the Western Country. If you can advise with the members of your Chapter I wish you would, and write without waiting until your next formal meeting. As we are very anxious that this Chapter shall appear in the catalog.

Our catalog is progressing as swiftly as circumstances will allow and when published I think will be the most complete and beautiful of anything of the kind ever gotten up in this country.

ISAAC M. HUGHES, MIAMI, TO HENRY W. BEESON, MICHIGAN.

OXFORD, O., February 14, 1855.

No matter if there has been a change in Recorders here, no matter if you never saw me nor heard my name I am going to

write you a letter on important matters. Perhaps you think I might go through the formalities of an introduction and tell you that Alpha is "all right" that she is still moving on "in the even tenor of her way" etc., etc. These things I waive however, that I may immediately, kindly, officially, and fraternally introduce the subject of the *Catalogue*.

Thruston, McCleary and I went down lately into Cincinnati to put the matter into the hands of the Engraver and Printer thinking to have it out in about six weeks at least. Prior to going however we had managed to get a sight of the Catalogues of three of the best Secret Societies in the East or I may say (Betas excepted) in the whole Union. One of them has a chapter at your college I forget which but I think the Chi Psis. We have also found that the Alphas and Deltas are both getting out new catalogues. I need not say that we are determined to be ahead of all of them. We are confident that if we can carry out our present design ours will be actually superior to any of them. It will cost however much more than we had anticipated. You may think I am one of the kind that is inclined to boast a little, but I can assure you that a new "vision has come over the spirit of our dreams." We are thinking the Betas should try what they can do. Thruston wished me to write particularly and earnestly on this subject and I deem it a matter of momentous importance. We must have a Catalogue that will "astonish" the barbarians, that will cause their ears to tingle and their eyes to stick out. Our chapter has given \$48.00 and the new members will give \$20.00 more besides considerable expense to the city and back which will make in all little less than \$100.00.

We do not wish you to consider this a dun but only a wish to let you know how the work of the Catalogue is getting along and how the whole matter stands. More money we must have before the thing is completed but we have no doubt we will get it if the chapters only know that it is needed. I think you may rest assured that if you do contribute you will get the worth of your money when you get the Catalogues.

I only wish I could give you a description of the Catalogue in prospect. I believe in your last you said something about contributing to the Catalogue. You need be in no particular hurry, we will not need it till the first or middle of March.

I admire the spirit that prompted you to refuse consent to establish a chapter at Washington, Pa. The real objects of our association demand that we should not throw open our doors to every floundering upstart of a school in the land. If we wish to retain our integrity and nobility it behooves us to be guarded somewhat in this matter that our badge be not dishonored by any unworthy bearer. I do not know whether any other chapter will refuse consent or not. We granted ours some time ago.

THOMAS WHAREY, HAMPDEN-SIDNEY, TO HENRY W. BEESON,

HAMPDEN-SIDNEY, VA., March 3rd, 1855.

Your letter lay several days in the hands of Brother Davis and I who have lately been honored with the office of Recorder have since that time have been too much pressed with business to write sooner. None of the letters which you speak of having written have ever been received. I am glad to hear that your Chapter is prosperous, but I am also grieved to hear of the death of a noble Brother Greek who was so endeared to all who knew him and was so early and so suddenly taken away. As you asked for a list of our members I will give it to you as I find them on our roll.

All of these generally attended our meetings except Prof. C. S. Venables and Dabney Harrison who is at the same time student and tutor in the seminary here and therefore has little time to spare. There are four others of us now in the Theological Seminary, the two Davises, Penick and myself. Now I will say a word as to our college Professors. I have already mentioned one as belonging to our Chapter. Professor Martin and Wilson are also loyal members of our body, but do not belong to our chapter as they were Greeks before they came. The latter has resigned his professorship but we expect a member of our own chapter, who is now at the University of Virginia to take his place.

There are only five professors here including the President and Tutor and they have promised to join us, I believe, at the next favorable opportunity. The professors do not often attend for fear some inquisitive Barbarians might find it out, and thus injure the College. So you see we are regularly hemmed in by Greek Professors and you can well imagine the danger which we

are to expect from this quarter. The fact is you had better leave those professors of distorted minds and contracted hearts and come over here, where you can be free to live as a Greek "under your own vine and fig tree."

I would like very much to have you step into one of our meetings some night, to eat and smoke and laugh and talk freely among true and tried friends.

We have met with some little opposition from another secret society which has been formed here this session. It caused considerable talk for a while but I believe they are beginning to die out already. They keep their society as secret as we do and are only known by the badge which they wear which has the shape of a tulip. Larimore, whom you spoke of belongs to this tulip society. We were just thinking of taking him in when he joined it. He is thought to be one of the most talented young men in the College and is quite popular, but there seems to be little probability of his ever becoming a preacher as I believe he is very wild, and in some danger of becoming dissipated.

WASHINGTON COLLEGE, PA., March 8, 1855.

*To the brethren of the Lambda Chapter of Beta Theta Pi—
Greeting:*

We have the pleasure of announcing to you that the bonds of the fraternity have been strengthened, and the fraternal circle extended by the formation of the Nu Chapter of Beta Theta Pi, at Washington College, Washington, Pa.

This child of promise was ushered into being February 10, '55, though, as must be expected from its extreme youth, it is yet in its "day of small things." But we should not despise small beginnings; the giant oak was once the modest acorn, the majestic river can be traced back to the tiny rill—and Earth's millions to a single pair. The number of "the faithful" is yet but four, with some hope of an increase in a short time, though, as in other things, so here especially, we think "haste is not always speed."

The number of students is not large; but flattering prospects, the friends of the college say, are before us. This, with some who are yet in the beginning of their college course, and upon whom we intend to keep an eye, furnishes the elements of a well

grounded hope that the family of Nu will soon rival in numbers some of the elder branches of the household, though we by no means esteem this rivalry in numbers alone the most wholesome species of emulation.

We have thus given you a brief statement of the origin and condition of our chapter and its future prospects. Hoping for cheering encouragement in your friendly welcome, and that with our elder brethren to take us occasionally by the hand, we will be able to "go on our way rejoicing," we thus present you our first bow with the assurance of our devotion to the noble principles and interests of Beta Theta Pi.

J. H. SHERRARD,

Recorder of Nu Chapter of Beta Theta Pi.

VAN B. CARTER, CENTRE, TO DAVID KESSINGER, OHIO.

DANVILLE, KY., March 12th, 1855.

Forgive me; forgive me! forgive me!! I am almost ashamed to do right. I have wronged so long. In January a letter came from you and now it is March, ever welcome Spring has ushered in upon me, and found your kind, welcome, interesting, edifying, well written, well spelled, and well punctuated letter unanswered. Well I'll just tell you the truth and ask your forgiveness. My plan is not to answer letters just as I receive them. But I wait until at least a half dozen accumulate and then I answer them all at the same time. About the time your letter was received I was just ready to answer a lot of letters, so I commenced, took them in order and before I had finished answering I became tired and concluded I would answer yours the next day. So thoughtlessly I laid your letter aside with letters marked "answered" and in this way neglected to answer yours. Today while looking over my file of answered letters I found your letter among them not marked.

I received a letter from Alpha Chapter a few days ago, stating that the amount of money on hand is not quite sufficient to get out our catalog. I don't know how much money has been paid in; and I had hoped that after so long a delay in the publication of the catalog, we would have no more trouble. But as we have gone thus far, I suppose we ought, must and will complete it.

Gates P. Thruston, is no longer Recorder of Alpha. He was a splendid recorder and I dislike to lose him. We gave our consent a few weeks ago to establish a Chapter at Knox College, I have not been notified yet of its organization. I am decidedly in favor of extension, and believe we ought to have a Chapter in every respectable College in the United States. Our new Chapter over at Lebanon, Tenn., is flourishing, remarkably well. Do write to Brother Fitch at Hudson. If you don't, you ought, for he is alone in all his glory and needs a little sympathy.

ABRAHAM SMITH MCKINNEY, JEFFERSON, TO DAVID KESSINGER,
OHIO.

CANONSBURG, PA., March 17, 1855.

A short time since your humble servant whose name you will find somewhere near the close of this sheet, was chosen recorder, and acting in the capacity it becomes him to answer your last letter.

Of late there have been many base attempts to crush us, more particularly in the literary society to which I and the greater portion of us belong (The Philo). A few unworthy barbarians wishing to elevate themselves raised a doleful cry against Betaism, declaring that for the last ten years Betas have held almost all of the offices and represented the society in almost every contest. This to a great extent is true. But if the society considered them more worthy than others, why are they to be condemned for it? The attempts of these barbarians have not been altogether unsuccessful as they succeeded in persuading a portion of society that Betas were rather monopolizing matters there. Hence these fellows presented their claims. And the members were fools enough to elevate them to their disposition.

A few weeks since we had the pleasure of establishing a new (Nu) Chapter in Washington College, Pa. Our prospects there are very flattering indeed. The three first men initiated were decidedly the best men in the College. I understand they have added one or two good fellows since. A Secret Society of long standing in that College (Phi Gamma Delta) much disliked the innovation; but were compelled to grin and bear it. The fellows there appear to take great interest in the matter, and will do everything in their power to advance the cause of Betaism. The Recorder's name is John H. Sherrard.

JOHN H. SHERRARD, WASHINGTON, PA., TO DAVID KESSINGER,
OHIO.

WASHINGTON, PA., April 3, 1855.

Your truly welcome letter of March 10th, came to hand in due time, and afforded me much satisfaction and I would on behalf of our Chapter return you our hearty thanks for the welcome you gave us in your letter.

At our meeting a few evenings since, we initiated a new member. So you will see we now number five. We have good times at our meetings, although we have to keep very quiet. There is a Chapter of the Phi Gamma Delta here, who look upon us with rather a jealous eye. This association has been in existence here for a number of years and in times past had some noble sons, but lately it has degenerated. Each of us members of Nu has been invited by the Deltas and I suppose would have joined had it not been for the character of some of their members, with whom we could never fraternize. We are now thankful we did not join them. I have received letters from only seven Chapters yet. I don't know why the others don't write. Most of them caution us to be careful, about making our selections.

At our College we have an annual contest between the Literary Societies on the third Wednesday of December. The contestants were elected today. Brother Waugh has been elected Essayist of our Society, notwithstanding the Deltas brought out all their forces against him.

ISAAC M. HUGHES, MIAMI, TO DAVID KESSINGER, OHIO.

OXFORD, OHIO, April 12, 1855.

Your letter addressed to Mr. Wall, has just come to hand and I hasten to reply as I myself undoubtedly now hold the office of Recorder, and attend to all such letters. Don't think me too self important for I have been told that such a person cannot be egotistical if he sticks to the truth.

Alpha is still flourishing, this Spring weather we feel a little dull and dreamy, but the "besom" is still here and needs but a favorable opportunity to develop itself. Very glad indeed to hear of the prospering of Kappa.

We are just writing for material and absolutely wanting it and need considerable yet, before the catalog is out and the sooner we can get it the sooner the catalogs will be out. We are determined to have a fine catalog, one that will be worth looking at, and we can't get it without paying for it. We expect at least two dollars from every member and if any choose to give more we will gladly receive it. Some of our men give five and some give three. All we say is to give all you see fit, and all you can. We know true Betas always come manfully up to the wants and bear the burden unitedly and don't leave it to a single man or Chapter.

Let me urge you to send it immediately or as soon as you possibly can and if you have any names unsent send them too.

ISAAC M. HUGHES, MIAMI, TO HENRY W. BEESON, MICHIGAN.

OXFORD, OHIO, April 21, 1855.

Pardon my breach of propriety in addressing you without a reply to my last, I attribute your tardiness either to an ignorance of our wants or a misunderstanding or a failure in the Post Office Department or some similar cause. I know if you knew our desires you would grant them.

Our Catalogue is almost ready; a splendid frontispiece is about complete and the names are nearly ready for the printers and could be in his hands in a few days and the Catalogue could be out in two or three weeks had we only the "money necessary." We cannot, or will not, proceed with empty pockets; for it is a long established fact tested by ages of experience that "what is everybody's business is nobody's business." Alpha Chapter will give altogether about \$100.00 towards the catalogue but she is constrained to become one of the horse leach's daughters and send up the cry "Give, Give" to our sister chapters. The whole affair rests just here; the sooner the different chapters pay their quotas the sooner will our catalogue be out. We are unable and unwilling to borrow money to publish the catalogue.

We sincerely hope and trust that immediately on the reception of this you will be so kind as to send us whatever material aid you see fit together with any names you would wish to have inserted in the catalogue which you have never yet sent us.

J. D. MEREDITH, VIRGINIA, TO THE INDIANA ASBURY CHAPTER.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, May 15th, 1855.

As the recorder of a chapter instituted at this place, it affords me much pleasure to open a correspondence with you. Yours is the presiding chapter I think. If this be so please let us know where and from whom we can get badges and send us a list of the recorders of the different chapters. We know not what chapter we are, as we know not how many chapters are in existence. Let us know this and every thing else you please. We have been in existence some three weeks, our members are: R. McIlwaine, L. L. Holladay, L. D. Meredith, F. N. Read, T. L. Preston, H. M. Matthews, W. G. Strange, and S. G. Compton. We have also elected A. Mathews and P. Cabell, who have not been initiated. So we have ten members, I have no time to write now, write immediately. I will write to you next time.

GEO. MATHER, OHIO WESLEYAN TO GEO. S. WALSH, OHIO.

HILLSBORO, OHIO, July 9, 1855.

I am glad of this opportunity of introducing myself to a Brother Recorder in our society. I have commenced today to write to every chapter in our society, not only to discharge a duty, but also to elicit a response in order that we may learn the prosperity or adversity (I hope not the latter) of all our members.

Our commencement came on 13th ult., and a time when feast of reason and flow of soul are in abundance. Four of our members graduated and we certainly felt glad to know they were ours as they were the first in their class. One was an old member of your college, H. K. Hinde. It makes me feel a little badly to lose such good fellows immediately from us but we are trying to remedy their loss by greater exertion among the rest. We have admitted six during the last six months and all are worthy, soul stirring, energetic fellows, we congratulate ourselves on our prospects.

You are prospering I hope at Athens. How is it?

JOHN D. MCCLINTOCK, HANOVER TO HUGH BOYD, OHIO

SOUTH HANOVER, IND., September 20, 1855.

I received your letter a few days ago, and am happy to hear

that the Beta Theta Pi is flourishing in Ohio. I received a letter also from Brother Moore requesting a list of Iota's members for the new catalogues. I have just got through college but am here yet, and expect to leave the place next week. It is now vacation here, but the session will commence this week. The books and papers are now in the hands of Brother A. N. Keigwin at Jeffersonville, Ind. I wrote to him to send the list. I have just heard that Brother Keigwin does not expect to return, and Brother Blake is doubtful. They are now the only ones, the remaining five having graduated last month. I do not know what will become of Iota this session. The college is in such a condition that I am afraid Iota can not do much. Direct your next to Brother Walter A. Blake, he may be here, if not it will be forwarded to him and he can give you information concerning Iota. If you want any information concerning publishing the list of Iota's members, write to A. N. Keigwin of Jeffersonville, Ind., or W. I. Craddock, Louisville, Ky., or H. C. Warren, Louisville, Ky,

Give my love to all the Greeks. I am now leaving college and will no more have the delightful privilege of meeting regularly and having good Beta Letters, but my heart is in the cause. Go on my brothers, and may God prosper you. I expect that Iota will be for a short time suspended, but I hope she may yet survive and become a leading chapter.

GEORGE MATHER, OHIO WESLEYAN TO RUFUS N. LAUMAN, OHIO.

DELAWARE, OHIO, October 10, 1855.

I hasten soon as possible to respond to yours of the 30 ult. My answer will be brief, as the hours are too short for me to fill in all my college labors. We are to have a gala day tomorrow at the dedication of the Sturgess Library. The ladies, who get up a supper for the occasion, having appointed your humble servant committee on collecting plates (alas, *empty* ones) and fixing up stoves, I have cut on recitations and will now fill up a short time by shaking hands with you, by the means of this letter.

I am glad to hear that Sister Kappa is prospering so well. She seems to have "a wet sheet and a flowing sea" 12 knots an hour in her onward course. May she rise higher and still higher until her proud elevation shall first give to the world the rays of

future suns which may rise in the scientific and literary world. It is our manifest destiny to rise here and forever. While life lasts may every Beta say onward and in eternity renew his glorious race.

I hope your new members will give fresh increments of light and interest to your meetings. Our number is now over seven. More elected this term. Indeed we have here a great heterogeneous conglomerated *mass of 'oi polloi* that it would be hard to raise one good Beta from. True the boys are good honest fellows, but we want those who make the big X wherever they go. We will have good members or none, even if no one is left to carry our standard. The colors fly aloft now with honor and we won't give up the ship until the last man is fallen. No fear but we shall go ahead. Everyone here is a host in himself and can chase a thousand and put ten thousand to flight.

Theta greets Kappa with a kiss, that is if apostolic customs are to be followed; if not, with that custom a warm Beta grip. (Private Note. I believe the Greeks here are more for kissing the girls than the boys. I can speak for myself. What more nice than a good hearty kiss. We like to cultivate the fine arts sometimes.)

Write whenever the muse will let you. We pledge the faith of a Greek to keep up the tug of war. We throw down our glove as a challenge to a friendly contest through the hands of Uncle Sam.

JAS. A. REED, JEFFERSON TO DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO.

CANONSBURG, PA., NOV. 11, 1855.

Your very interesting epistle came to me the other day like "the breath of incense breathing morn." It brought some news "pleasant yet mournful to my soul." Pleasant because it tells me that your Beta Hearts are still strong in the faith, and mournful because the hand of affliction is bearing heavily on some of you. I hope our little sister may not lose her breasts but that she may ever be abundantly supplied with the milk of human kindness.

Should you be left alone in your glory what a time you will have. The gods might envy your felicity. Just to think of a

chapter of the big book of the Beta Theta Pi with but one verse in it! I'd like to hear a sermon preached from you.

You want to know how we are getting along over here at Gamma. Well, sir, to use an exaggerated phrase, we are getting along "like a streak of lightning."

We had about as glorious a meeting on last Wednesday night as was ever recorded in the annals of Betaism. The new chapter from Washington College paid us a visit, or rather like good Macedonians they came over to help us. The oysters had to suffer in the flesh I tell you. Our distinguished member of the Aesculapian School, Dr. Weaver, appeared in our midst and favored us with a rich treat of reason and flow of soul. He read an essay entitled the "Poet's Misery" which he had expressly prepared for the Chapter. It was indeed full of humor and of fat things, and wine well refined. If we can induce him to give us a copy, we will have it printed. We have initiated three new members this session already, and have one or two more under scrutiny. We have now twelve active members whose names I will subjoin:—W. W. Hays, J. A. Beaver, Jas. Smith, Jos. Smith, A. G. Wilson, I. P. Houston, Orr Lawson, Geo. Paull, D. C. Marquis, Thos. X. Orr and John Weaver.

You wish to know if we give our irregular members "full privileges." I would merely state that we have only one irregular member, Dr. Weaver, and we have always given him full privileges. He is an old stand-by and is profitable for advice, etc. I have ordered the pins as you directed. It is probable however, that Wilson will not mail them till he receives the money. It is customary to send him the money before the pins are mailed. I sent three pins to Chapel Hill, two weeks ago, the money was sent with the order. I have since received a letter stating that the pins were received. The corner of Fourth and Market St. is his address. Address W. W. Wilson, Jeweller. If we could raise the money among us here, we would forward it for you, but unhappily we have been defraying so many expenses of late that our purses are getting "small by degrees and beautifully less." We have great opposition here from the Phi Psis. Our next contest will be with the Phi Psis. They succeed in electing their men over merit and everything else. But never mind, the Star of Betaism has not set to rise no more. Truth is mighty, and will prevail.

HENRY KEIGWIN, HANOVER, TO W. F. STONE, INDIANA ASBURY.

SOUTH HANOVER, IND., NOV. 26, 1855.

I have been thinking, Brother Stone, how wantonly Shakespeare fabricated when he said "There are sermons in stones." For judging from the rich, rare epistle which I had the good fortune to receive from you a day or two ago I had not the least idea that you ever sermonized in your life. I have no hesitancy in locating you in that part of my geological cabinet, appropriated to specimens of double refined crystallized "Attic Salt." Your letter was something novel in the way of Beta correspondence and was hugely appreciated by the "Membra Corporis" of young Iota. I especially, though a "membrum inferum" and not recorder of the chapter, was pleased at the wholesouled, don't care a dogonative spirit, which it bore throughout and stamped the author a kindred spirit. I despise formality, especially among the Greeks, and I hate to see the warm and generous impulses of a noble soul cramped and smothered by the straight jacket rules of a dignified etiquette. How many a warm heart has been chilled and warped by the cold domineering rules of "Well regulated society," which fetter its natural promptings. The freedom from restraint which is at once the cultivator and promotor of those natural principles of the heart, which mark man a social being, is, I consider, one of the most if not the most glorious feature of our unsurpassable association. If a member of our association has a soul, and what Greek has not one as big as a two-year-old calf, it is sure to display itself sooner or later. That "Greeks is Greeks is no mistake," I have learned by a happy experience. We have a glorious set of boys now in our chapter, ten in all, two freshmen, one glorious little codger who is a sophomore, and our recorder, one Christian junior, (the only Christian in the chapter), and six reverend "grave and potent Seniors," besides two of the best members of the faculty belong to our number, so there is not much danger of our being annihilated by the Barbarian part of it, as we have been threatened once or twice. By the way I think Barnum ought to have our professor of Mathematics—Old Peet—and also Stone alias Dornicks, alias Silex, alias Gass, who is the Professor of Natural Science. The former might compare with "Peter, the

Hermit" in long, lank leanness. It has been said of him that when he walks he steps with such mathematical precision that the rocks cut triangles, squares and parallelopipedons on the bottom of his pigeon-toed boots. The latter, I mean the geological specimen, is altogether the most peculiar, indescribable specimen, I have ever met with. His countenance somewhat resembling, well I don't know what, we'll say Prof. Stone's, while the celerity of some of his gyrations might make a flash of lightning turn red in the face, for very shame. He is as dry as a couple of chips and would talk a fellow to death and then whisper in his ear.

Some of our fellows are not fond of dog but they are passionately fond of the ladies and have souls full of chivalry. There is one little chunky senior especially, who has a "duck" in this place, in whom his soul is much delighted, and about eight nights per week they say he can be seen making a straight-coat-tail up Telegraph street to her house, merely as he says to get Buttermilk. He thinks her a conglomerated gob of Goodey—a pile of calico, love and smiles.

Our president (Smoot) is also a senior, and one of the best natured and talented pot-bellied seniors, that ever ate mush. He sends his doubled and twisted regards to his former correspondent, Ira Grover, says his "profanity and rotundity" are on the increase and wants to know whether Ira will meet him in Louisville next August, at the convention. "Coming events cast their shadows before." I have begun to feel good already in anticipation of the glorious time we will have on that occasion. Smoot is our delegate, but I expect, that nine-tenths of our chapter will be present at the convention.

The oration, which D. O. Dailey (a former member of your chapter) delivered before our chapter last commencement, will be published in about two weeks, and I will send you a copy immediately after its publication. It is an able production and reflects honor upon the association.

But, Brother Stone, I have bored you long enough. Our selection of officers will take place in about two weeks and under these circumstances, and since you directed your letter to me, the present recorder Harry C. Warren did not think it best to begin a correspondence which probably would have to be broken off when the new officers are elected and therefore the chapter requested me to answer. I would like to hear from you at any time,

Brother Stone, in a private capacity, for I believe we are kindred spirits, though we have never met each other.

J. A. P. McGAW, MIAMI, TO W. F. STONE, INDIANA ASBURY.

OXFORD, OHIO, Jan. 14, 1856.

Your neglected letter of December 5th was received sometime since and I don't know that I can assign a satisfactory reason why it has not been sooner answered, I guess I will not try to give any excuse but ask your pardon and promise to do better in future.

It is but recently that I have been vested with the office of recorder and am consequently not very well posted up in regard to Beta matters. You wish for a list of the recorders of different chapters. I have a list which I will send you. What changes have been made since it was made out, I am not able to state. Alpha, J. A. P. McGaw; Beta, not known; Gamma, J. A. Reed; Delta, W. F. Stone; Epsilon, V. B. Carter; Zeta, Richard McIlwain; Eta, J. S. Hains; Theta, Charles Parrott; Iota, H. C. Warren; Lambda, B. T. Prentiss; Mu, Hardin Brown; Omicron, W. G. Strange. Those are all the names I have and I do not know how many of these are correct. I am anxious to find out the names of all the recorders as speedily as possible, and if you can lend me any assistance I shall be obliged to you.

Knox has not been heard from this session and some of the chapters seem to be almost ignorant of its existence. I can't imagine why she does not write.

We readily grant you permission to establish a chapter at Bloomington. We are glad to hear of what you have already done, and hope you will hasten the good work. We received a letter from one of our brethren there, Mr. Binkley, wishing to know how to proceed in the organization of a chapter. I will write to him today and refer him to your chapter. As there are only five brethren there and four of those are in the senior class and one in the Law Department, I suppose it would be advisable to proceed to the organization of the chapter with all possible speed in order that they may have a little of the good seed when they graduate.

Our chapter is in a prosperous condition. We number at

present eighteen all in good standing. Three of our Betas made speeches at the last anniversary of the Psodelphian society. Of course it is unnecessary to state that they were the best that were delivered. Our vacation commenced on the Thursday before Christmas. Our next session will commence on next Monday week. There are several Betas remaining in town during this vacation and you may well believe we have a jolly time. The Betas had a supper the other evening, but unfortunately owing to misunderstanding on my part in regard to the place of rendezvous, I was not at it, but it was no doubt a grand affair.

As this is a new business to me and as I have several letters on hand that must be answered today you will excuse me for writing no more at present. After a while when I get fairly into the way, I will try to do better.

W. W. WHEELER, MICHIGAN, TO JAMES TAYLOR, JR., MIAMI.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN,

ANN ARBOR, February 9, 1856.

In the course of human events it so happened that I was elected Recorder of this Lambda chapter of our *beloved fraternity*, an affair on my part devoutly to be wished, and though I cannot promise my brother Recorder's letters of much interest beyond my mere official capacity, still I hope in some respects to strengthen the unity of the different chapters by a more frequent correspondence, which must ever be our great *desideratum*, and which, I fear, has at least by this chapter been sadly neglected. I do not say this to find fault, but having been Prex of this chapter for the last five months, I had particular occasion to notice that the correspondence of our chapter was quite deficient. Now, I for my part *am resolved* to carry out that clause of our constitution which says: "It shall be the duty of every Recorder to make a *monthly* statement of the condition and prospects of the chapter and to every other chapter." With the Records more than any others rests the welfare, prosperity and individuality of our glorious society. A great responsibility is laid upon us, and it is our duty to be consistent with it—to bear it manfully. Is it not so?

Our chapter is getting along swimmingly; with ten acting and *active* members, and others in prospectu not less promising,

we bid fair to take our old position among the secret societies of this institution as the *first* and *best*. Brother Beeson is our Prex. He and I are the only representatives at present of our society among the upper classes, thus we have our strength in the lower classes while the other societies here have their best members in the upper classes so that we are silently but surely pushing them out.

We have recently introduced debating into the literary exercises of our chapter, which has, I think, already promoted in no small degree the interest and zeal of us all.

We meet once a week (on Saturday eve), but have our literary exercises, which consist of essays, reviews, anonymous communications (concerning members and the affairs of the society), and debates but once every other week. There are so few of us that as we have two essays and two reviews on every such occasion it would be too arduous a duty to have literary exercises every week as we should otherwise wish, though our other meetings are by no means devoid of great interest. You will, I know, excuse the necessary prosiness of this letter and I hope your wishes and views relative to a more frequent correspondence will coincide with mine. Lambda sends here greeting and best wishes to Alpha.

WM. W. WHEELER, MICHIGAN, TO WILBUR F. STONE, INDIANA
ASBURY.

ANN ARBOR, Feb. 12, 1856.

We found on last evening that our official seal had been stolen sometime during the last month and a half or two months. We have strong suspicions as to who the parties are and the boys are already getting out search warrants to search their rooms and hall. Armington is implicated (I believe he is known to some of the boys in your chapter) and if the seal is found in possession of any of the Delta Phi crowd they will be put through to the full extent of the law. If you received any letters within this time bearing the stamp of Lambda's seal please forward them immediately. I am writing to all of the chapters on this subject as the boys are bound to see it through.

Receive Lambda's greeting. I send a list of our boys here: H. W. Beeson, E. B. Chandler, D. A. Collins, B. T. Prentis, T.

G. Gavin, Daniel Kloss, L. T. Griffin, Arthur Wilcox, David Johnson, James Wallace, Wm. W. Wheeler.

John W. Paine once belonged but we expelled the puppy, damn him!

SAMUEL CALDWELL, KNOX, TO THE ALPHA CHAPTER AT MIAMI.

XI CHAPTER, BETA THETA PI,

KNOX COLLEGE, Galesburg, Ill., Feb. 23, 1856.

I have just returned to Knox after an absence of nearly five weeks, caused by sickness, and find a letter on my table, left for me by my chum, Mr. Brunson, which he received nearly two months ago where he is teaching in the country, from Bro. McGaw, of your chapter, in reference to catalogues. The letter states that about forty dollars is yet due from the society to somebody for printing, and asks what this chapter is willing to do. I have not as yet had an opportunity of presenting the letter to Xi, but I will venture to assure you that she will do whatever those who superintend the printing ask of her. Be bold, therefore, to cast up the account in any reasonable way you please, and let us know how much we ought to forward, and you shall have it.

Is not this about the time to send round the semi-annual report in regard to condition, prospects, etc? I believe no such statement has yet been received here except in the letters we have had from time to time, so that if there is any particular form used in the report, I am ignorant of it. Allow me, then, to inform you and yours that Xi numbers at present six members of Knox, viz: W. C. Goodhue and J. V. Morris, seniors; Anson Brunson and J. B. Robb, juniors; and Abram Neff and myself, sophs. We have another member, T. A. E. Holcomb, up town, who comes in to see and help us nearly every meeting. Our chapter will probably not be much larger this year, though we may add two or three. This college is small, and the number of "hale" fellows is, of course, smaller. The President of Knox (Blanchard), is so hostile to every form of secret society, that we do not think it prudent to make our existence known as yet; and this hostility of his deprives us of two good members at least, who would, no doubt, join us if it were not for their too great rever-

ence for him. We are decidedly the flower in Knox (though I am obliged to say it). We never fail of accomplishing what we undertake, and so far we have been altogether agreed as to all things.

Please inform us when and where the next convention meets ; also, where and at what cost we can obtain badges.

DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO, TO J. A. P. MCGAW, MIAMI.

ATHENS, O., March 1, 1856.

Your communication of February 19th was like cool water to a thirsting soul. But before proceeding to more general affairs, let me thank you for the compliment, so undeserved, expressed in your letter ; and, also, let me say the same concerning you—I like your letters. Our chapter was very anxious to hear the explanations you gave, so you may rest assured the "letter from Alpha" was anxiously expected. We are under great obligations to you for your clear and satisfactory explanations. I perfectly agree with you that our next convention should prescribe a regular form of initiation. Nothing adds more to the impression of *awe*, which fills the breast of the person being initiated than a dignified form of ceremony. I mean by this, that our obligations themselves are so solemn that the rest of our initiatory rites should correspond. If we send a delegate, we shall give him instructions to urge this matter upon the attention of the convention. I do hope the action in reference to it will be satisfactory.

You congratulate us upon our *revival*. Thank you. *We*, indeed, have need to rejoice, for we have got three new members who are in every sense worthy to "bear the name and wear the badge of Beta Theta Pi."

Since they joined, I don't believe our meetings have been excelled by those of any of our sister chapters. We have *glorious* times, perfectly *glorious*! There exists between us such a flow of sociability, such a confiding spirit, such deep affection, that, I believe, we are unconquerable by all the means the barbarians may or can bring against us. Almost daily each of us exclaim—"Thank my stars that I ever was so fortunate as to become a Beta!" Our love for our noble order is the groundwork of our

prosperity. And the more we study its objects, the more ardently do we become attached to it. Were it not for—I would feel a hesitancy in thus freely expressing myself, but that *glorious confidence in each other* banishes all such feelings.

Altho' we sympathize with you in your anticipated loss at your next commencement, yet we are glad that nine true Greeks are then going forth into the world to spread the influence and rule of our beloved fraternity. Success and honor *must* yield to staunch Greeks; preferment is theirs wherever they may be, and respect is their inheritance. *That's so.* But enough.

I send you the latest and most complete list of recorders we have. I can't vouch for its accuracy. In your next, let us know which chapter chooses the next orator.

GEO. B. CAMPBELL, CUMBERLAND, TO J. A. P. MCGAW, MIAMI.

CUMBERLAND UNIVERSITY,
LEBANON, TENN., March 18, 1856.

Yesterday's post brought us a letter from Bro. Mc-Surely (as Rec. of Alpha Chapter). We had not heard from you in such a long while that it was really cheering to see that you did not intend to neglect us always. Our chapter is quite flourishing—we have not an unusually large number (only ten this term) but we could have a much larger number if we would let them in. We are trying to mould the right kind of material. Several of our former members (who graduated last term), have visited us this winter; six of our members were graduates last term. Four men will finish in June: Bros. Brown, Love, White and myself. We have several new candidates proposed who are under strict scrutiny. You can say to Bro. Mc-Surely that I heartily concur with him in his sentiments respecting Northerners and Southerners, that no political differences shall ever divide us, but that feelings of the purest nature may always exist. I rejoice to learn that Betas are in such high repute among the female portion of your town. The approbation and smiles of the "beautiful creatures" scarcely, *if ever*, fail to give new impetus to any enterprise. We have some delicate flowers among us, that I scarcely can believe could flourish in any other clime ("some rare exotics"). Let us hear again from you *soon*, at your earliest convenience.

WILLIAM W. WHEELER, MICHIGAN, TO DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO.

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN, March 20, 1856.

Yours of the first instant was I suppose received by Brother Beeson. At any rate it was duly put into my hands to answer. I am rather afraid, my dear Sir, that you used rather strong language to that young man. Since he does not seem disposed to answer the summons, accept the challenge or "stand up to the rack."

Now let us see who will be the most punctual hereafter, you, or I. Kappa or Lambda. And now since I have accepted the challenge giving the "wherefore and the which of why" you will be pleased to accept my apology for not having written to Kappa. I entered into the office of Recorder on the 9th of last February, and since that time have written twice to every Chapter but yours, I thought I had written to you, but on coming to look over the matter found I had not.

Since yours was received I have been extremely busy and it was next to impossible for me to write. But after the present I hope to be able to discharge my duty with regard to you more faithfully. It is indeed a glorious work in which we are engaged and it behooves us Recorders to be faithful in the performance of our duties. I think, honestly think, that of the misfortunes which our beloved fraternity has suffered, more can be directly traced to an inefficient and ill managed correspondence than to any other source. *Vide*, the history of Zeta prime and Iota prime Chapters. It becomes us then to benefit by these examples, now that the ice is broken between us, let us drag in the loose chain and brighten up the rest. Lambda rejoices to be informed of the prosperous condition and the hopeful expectations of Kappa. May her condition never be less prosperous and her expectations fully realized, is the ardent wish and prayer of Lambda.

Lambda also flourishes like unto a green bay tree, and expects mighty deeds ere long. At any rate we are rapidly regaining our former position among the Secret Societies of this Institution as the first and the best. Nor is this any half way business, but we are making a sure work of it. We have the best scholars in the Soph and Freshman classes, though we hold our own in others too. I have been in the society a year and a half but it is surprising to look back and see what progress this

Chapter has made since that time. We have worked like dray horses in her behalf; have forced her blindly through thick and thin, have resolved and carried out the resolution "to do or die" and are now reaping some of the sweet fruit consequent upon our bitter sweat. At any rate we have paved the way for our successors not with good intentions but our best deeds, and if I have played the braggart some in enumerating the good deeds of us pioneers, so to speak, you must pardon us as you would some garrulous old man whose course is nearly run and who on looking back on the cares and vicissitudes of his past life feels that he has accomplished something to be proud of.

Now Brother Moore, I shall expect a speedy answer to this poor epistle. In future I will try and do better in the style and matter. Will send you a list of members in my next.

HORACE RICE, CENTRE, TO NEWTON I. BEHAN, OHIO.

DANVILLE, KY., December 28, 1856.

By an election of the new officers, provided for, at the last general Convention, I was chosen as one of the corresponding secretaries of Epsilon; and it became part of my pleasant duty, to answer your kind letter addressed to Brother Boude, our old Recorder. From the manner in which I have delayed to answer your letter, it may not strike you at first as being a very "pleasant" duty of mine. But I assure you it is a pleasure to me to correspond with you, as well as all of the good Greeks; and I have only been prevented from replying sooner by a combination of circumstances over which I had no control. Brother Boude handed me your letter about three weeks since and told me to answer it immediately, and I fully intended to do it then, but had to leave College a few days afterward, on some private business, and had no opportunity to write during my absence. I am now embracing the first opportunity after my return to reply to your letter.

It is with many misgivings that I have consented to assume the position I now do—knowing as I do the responsibilities of the place, and also that it has just been filled by one of our ablest and most experienced members. But acting upon the principle that we should inquire only what our duty is and stand ready to perform it regardless of consequences, I have agreed to take the place.

The particulars of the "*blow up*" at Greencastle, Indiana, had just reached us before our last meeting and we consumed a considerable portion of our time in commenting upon the affair—while we all regret that circumstances were such as to bring Delta, to a tragical and premature end, we are proud of the manner in which our gallant little band of Greeks conducted themselves, throughout the whole affair. They had shown themselves to be men of the true stamp, and evidently qualified to "bear the name and wear the badge of the Beta Theta Pi."

We have received the minutes of the last Convention as transcribed, and supposing them to be correct, adopted them without any hesitation. Our delegates who were down at the Convention gave a glowing description of it. Everything went off smoothly; not a harsh word spoken; not an unkind feeling exhibited. It must have been a beautiful picture to have seen them—representatives from all parts of the Union—just in the midst of an exciting political contest when party spirit was at its highest and every prejudice that could be appealed to, was aroused—meet, strike hands, and swear eternal fidelity to each other. But it is just what was to be expected of Betaism. It is a glorious institution, is laboring in a good cause and has a grand destiny to fulfill. Epsilon is in a flourishing condition, numbering twelve members in College, besides six or eight who are going to the Theological Seminary in this place.

JAMES TAYLOR, JR., MIAMI, TO DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO.

OXFORD, O., February 5, 1856.

You request some information in regard to our next convention. I am glad that I can accommodate you to a certain extent. The Epsilon Chapter at Danville, Ky., has the appointing of the place and time. Their recorder, Van. B. Carter, informed me last session, that the place of meeting was to be Louisville, Ky., and the time the 6th of August. Each chapter sends one delegate to the convention, and each chapter has but one vote in the convention. As the delegates from some of the chapters, will be at considerable expense, the recorder at Danville, laid before us the following plan, as being in their opinion, the best—to wit,

"That the sum of expenses of the delegates from every

chapter be computed and the total expense to be defrayed by all the chapters, each chapter paying an equal part of the whole."

This our chapter considered very just and replied to that effect. This is about all I know, you can obtain any other information from Epsilon, write to Van B. Carter. You must be sure and send a delegate and also as many of you as can go should avail themselves of the opportunity as we are bound to have a grand time. I expect some seven or eight will go from Alpha.

Brother I. M. Hughes of Alpha has been appointed a professor in a college in Missouri (Westminster), and writes us requesting permission from all the chapters to establish a chapter there. There is another professor there who is a Beta also, and although the college is of recent establishment, I have no doubt it will soon be, and I believe is now, in a flourishing condition, and we can have a fine chapter there under the supervision of such a Brother as Brother Hughes. Can we have your consent?

GATES P. THRUSTON, MIAMI, TO HENRY W. BEESON, MICHIGAN.

OXFORD, O., February 19, 1856.

You seem to be pushing the $\Delta \Phi$ pretty hard, and to some purpose. Well, if you can get anything out of them, do so by all means. I am very sorry that George C——— has turned out to be such a one as you have described to me—for his mother, and father were always of the noblest stamp and as I used to be a friend of the family, I should dislike exceedingly to do anything, or say, that would be the means of injuring him. I know he is an enemy to the Betas, because in the first letter he ever wrote to me, he gave them "particular thunder" and advised me not by any means to join them. I wrote back, evincing exceeding veridancy, and we kept up a continual correspondence for a good while—when, for some unknown reason he didn't answer my letter. Therefore I am unable to give any information with regard to, or that will throw any light upon, the matter.

We glory over your success. Lambda in uniting by the secret ties more faithful and trusty followers to the cause. We are ever anxious for your welfare, and from your letter you have neither disappointed our bright hopes nor swerved from your allotted duty.

I suppose you know that our next Convention meets at Louisville, Ky. The time if I am right is the 6th of August next, but by writing to Danville you can more certainly ascertain. We got a letter from them the other day, and they are flourishing finely—I was rejoiced to find that a cousin of mine and a glorious fellow had joined Epsilon.

We are glad that you have such an excellent reporter, for it is desirable indeed, and if all could have such that would keep up a continually lively and Beta like correspondence, it would add new interest to our meetings, and make us all take hold more firmly. I wish if you could have time, you (your Recorder) would write some of his soul stirring letters to the new Chapters—to Knox College, to Lebanon, Tenn., to Bloomington (that has lately been revived by the Greencastle boys)—and to Washington College, Va. And we ought to give them all the Brotherly advice and counsel in our power. Help us in doing so if you can.

I trust you will succeed in obtaining badges. It would be best perhaps to send the funds first by letter.

By the way be sure and attend the Convention well, and send whom you know can give aid in draughting a new Constitution, for a great deal depends on its being a worthy one, and not hastily and without thought written. I think it would be well to adopt our plan and at every meeting discuss upon what kind of Constitution you would prefer, what particular points you are in favor of, etc., and direct and post your delegate accordingly. By all following this plan it will be much better.

Alpha is also in A No. 1 condition and notwithstanding a very powerful opposition from the outsiders and other fraternities, she sails majestically along, and is acknowledged by most everyone to be the foremost.

SAMUEL CALDWELL, KNOX, TO DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO.

GALESBURG, ILL., February 23, 1856.

Your letter to Brother Holcomb, of February 9th was handed to me yesterday. I thus promptly undertake the pleasant task of returning your Fraternal salutation. It rejoices us very much, planted as we are "out in the wilderness" to do a good work I trust, though we are among the weak members of Beta Theta Pi, and perhaps the most unworthy of them all, inasmuch

as we have not "kept the faith" in the matter of correspondence. It rejoices us, I say to hear our older brothers crow so lustily over their prospects and present standing in Athens. May your crow never turn into a cackle, is our sincere wish.

This Chapter is in a healthy condition and will be able to give a good account of the talent committed to it. We have now six members in College, *viz.*, W. C. Goodhue, and J. V. Morris, seniors, Anson Brunson and J. B. Robb, juniors and Abram Neff, and myself sophomores. Besides these T. A. E. Holcomb a graduate of last year and a resident of Galesburg meets with us occasionally. Towards the last of the year we expect to add two or three more from the present Freshman class if they continue in College. I have no doubt that we could increase our number indefinitely, if we chose to do so, but there are some kinds of fish that afford no oil, as you are no doubt aware.

The existence of our Chapter is known only to ourselves, and it will probably remain a secret for some time. President Blanchard is most determinedly opposed to all secret societies and he has most of the faculty with him. There is no knowing what the event would be if should light upon us. He would not be able to break us up though I am confident. There is no object at present in avowing ourselves, we will therefore remain *incog*.

In regard to our habits and customs, about which you were kind enough to enquire, I have to say that we have so far only talked and "speechified" in our meetings. We intend for the future to have original papers read each evening by two members taken in alphabetical rotation, the nature and the subjects to be determined by each one by himself, all of which as well as the inaugural addresses are to be copied into a book provided for the purpose.

Inform us if possible, where and when and how, the general Convention is to meet next, with whatever else you think proper.

VAN B. CARTER, CENTRE, TO DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO.

DANVILLE, KY., March 19, 1856.

Your last favor has been on hand for some time, and would have been answered sooner had not our absence from College prevented.

It is my pleasure to inform you that Epsilon is in a flourishing condition and, as far as I can learn, all other Chapters are the same.

We have altered the time for our Biennial Convention from August 6th to August 13th. Remember them, Louisville, Ky., August 13th, 1856, and be on hand. We want a full Convention and every Chapter represented, as we have business of great importance to attend to. In all the letters you may write for your Chapter please notice the change and urge the other Chapters to please send Delegates.

J. A. P. MCGAW, MIAMI, TO DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO.

OXFORD, O., March 29, 1856.

Our Chapter is going to try to establish a chapter of the B Θ Π at Nashville, Tennessee, if all the brethren are willing. Brother Battle has a friend there whom he recommends to us. The Deltas have a chapter there and have proposed to him, but he has not joined yet. Let us hear from you soon, and tell us what you think of the project.

JAMES A. P. MCGAW, MIAMI, TO WM. W. WHEELER, MICHIGAN.

OXFORD, O., April 3, 1856.

Your favor of March 26th has just come to hand, and both on account of its intrinsic merits and also because I have been thinking of writing to you soon, I answer it immediately. The reception of such a letter as your last does one's soul good. It does not seem to come from you as if you were performing an irksome task, but as if it was an agreeable duty. We can boast that it is no light task in our present state of prosperity to write a *Beta* letter to each chapter once a month, but I think it should be done. I think it would be well for our next convention to provide in the constitution for a division of labor in the office of Recorder. What do you think?

We were delighted to hear of your prosperity and that you are rapidly outstripping all competition. The character which you give to the *Alphas* of your place, corresponds precisely with that of their members here. They have a few, but precious few, fine noble-hearted fellows, but the most of them are most con-

summate asses, I think there must be something rotten in their constitution, for they seem to have the power of assimilating and spoiling most of the fellows they get. We can say in truth that we surpass in every respect every rival. We have enough of them, too. There are the $\Lambda \Delta \Phi$ above mentioned, and then there is the $\Phi \Delta \Theta$, and the $\Delta \kappa \epsilon$ and the $\Sigma \Phi$. We have no $X \Psi$ that we know of. The members of Phi society are few in number, but they are fine noble fellows. We cannot and do not wish to say anything bad of them. The members of the $\Delta \kappa \epsilon$ are very good fellows but there are only two or three of them and they are not taking any fellows in now. Most of the Sigma Phis are perfectly contemptible asses. The society originated here and consists mostly of expelled members of the $\Delta \kappa \epsilon$. They have but one other chapter and that is located at Delaware. They are not rivals of us. Those who would join them we would not have.

We are thinking of establishing a chapter at Nashville, Tennessee. Are you in? Brother Battle has a friend there whom he recommends to us as worthy to be a Beta, and I have no doubt that he is. He was proposed to by the *Deltas* there and has not joined yet. If we are quick enough about it, probably we can get him, and thus obtain a foothold there. Let us hear from you as soon as possible, and let us know what you think of the plan? I think we ought to spread in the South.

Your request concerning catalogues shall be attended to without delay. By the way is Lambda aware that one of our members, Brother Taylor, besides paying his subscription of five dollars, has assumed \$36.00 for the Society? Can Lambda do any more for us? I do not know the number of your members nor how much you have paid, and do not know whether you ought to pay any more or not. None of our fellows whose names appear in the Catalogue gave less than \$2.00, and some gave \$5. Alpha does not feel that she ought to do any more.

This is the first, and maybe the last letter, that you will receive from me as Recorder. Our acquaintance if it has been brief, I can say for my part has been most pleasant. I am compelled by unpropitious circumstances to leave my beloved *Alma Mater*, and go forth into the world—to teach school. However, I shall return next fall, not as a student, but as a *Theologue*. When I find out where I am going to be I shall send you my ad-

dress, and shall be most happy to hear from you. Can't we meet at the Convention?

THOMAS H. ROGERS, MIAMI, TO W. W. WHEELER, MICHIGAN.

OXFORD, OHIO, April 7th, 1856.

Your letter requesting some more catalogues was lately received by our Recorder. The distribution of the catalogues has been left mostly in the hands of Taylor and myself.

We would take pleasure in sending you a larger number than we do, but as there were only one thousand printed, few are now left. We are unable to send more than twenty in addition to what you have already received.

Brother Taylor has sent catalogues to your Chapter twice, once immediately after they were issued, and again last session when you requested it. We do not know whether you received the *last* lot as you have not informed us.

We send them from Cincinnati *by express*, so they do not always go through as well as we might wish. I thought best to inform you that they were coming in order to prevent any danger of their falling into barbarian hands. They will be sent from Cincinnati today or tomorrow so please *look out*.

A small remainder of a little over \$35, is left yet to be paid on the catalogues. We wish if possible to settle it up this session—could your chapter send anything more? We still expect something from Virginia, but after that, there will be some \$8 or \$10 left which we know not where to look for unless to you. Our Chapter has given at least \$60.00 and can do no more.

Now Brother Williams, I am done talking about business and so to fill the sheet let us have a little Beta chat. How do you do? I hope you are well, you and your lady love—who of course is a Beta.

I attended a fine Beta meeting last night and that would cure me if I were dying. We now discuss at our meetings what changes we wish made in the Constitution (I suppose you know a new one will likely be adopted). And allow me to suggest to your Chapter to do likewise. If all the Chapters discuss the improvements they would desire and instruct their delegates, much time would be saved at the Convention and a much better Constitution result. The delegates would then come with thoughts

matured on the subject. I think our Chapter can be much improved and the whole Society by thinking on the subject and discussing it in the different Chapters. The different chapters by corresponding regarding desired changes will make a better Constitution than a small committee can in a short time at the convention.

The regulations as to correspondence could be much improved. There are not enough letters written, and one fault is that there is too much work given to one man to do. We have sixteen or seventeen chapters, so that at least that many letters should be written a month; that makes four or five letters to be written every week. Then the minutes must be written and they should be carefully written, and not be dry, brief and hasty as a "Ledger." The doings of the Convention must also be recorded. All this is the duty of one man and no wonder the letters are few and far between and too often short—the minutes brief and too often dry.

Now most of our Chapters think there should be *more offices*. How would it do to have a Recorder to record what should go into the permanent book and perhaps to take the duties of a treasurer. Then have a corresponding secretary and an assistant corresponding secretary to do the letter writing? Would not this help matters? We think it would be well also to institute a correspondence between the Chapters and their graduated members. Say that each member be bound to write once a year or once in two years to his Chapter.

Again the semi-annual report is much neglected. Should there not be something more definite about it? If each Chapter would give such a report—telling the names of new members and each Chapter keep in the permanent book a list of the members of every other Chapter a continuous catalogue would be in the possession of each chapter. As it is now, the members of one chapter know who were members when the last catalogue was issued but know nothing of those initiated since.

By the way, please send us the names of all your new members with their residence. I would send *ours* but I cannot give them all in full and will tell our Recorder to do it when he writes again. Is there not a *name* missed in the catalogue? Sidney D. Miller used to belong to your Chapter, as I find old letters from him. Is he not now a member?

I have lately been reading over all the old letters in possession of our chapter and have had a rich time. I find many glorious letters from the Recorder of your chapter and have been much refreshed by reading them. But to return. There are many things to be remedied. The literary part needs some change it should be more prominent and more distinct. A great many little things could be put in which would help the working of the society much though each small in itself.

At a Convention which met at Hudson there was a committee on by-laws appointed but it did not report a code, for want of time. Now there should be a code of by-laws for the order as well as special by-laws of each chapter. Many little things and arrangements could be provided for in these which could not well be put in the Constitution, lest it would be made too cumbrous. The Constitution should contain the general outline of the fraternity policy, the lesser particulars should go in the code of by-laws. That which would apply to every chapter and benefit each should be put in a code of by-laws for the whole fraternity and arrangements each chapter might need for itself and its peculiar circumstances should be in the by-laws of that chapter. What do you think of this? Till this session our chapter had no by-laws hardly, but now we have a code which we think helps much. For instance, we have a law that the Recorder must report at each meeting the letters written since last meeting and record the report. This is a small thing, but in looking over the minutes we can learn when a letter was received and when answered. This makes it more orderly. Again we have a law that the Recorder must put down in the minutes all news of importance received in correspondence; this is very simple yet it makes the minutes more interesting for them to give the history of the different chapters and all the good things—said in the letter. But I will not tire you. You can easily see now a code of by-laws is needed for the order. As it is, a new chapter has to learn from experience these little things before it gets well under way.

I am glad to hear you have been writing to the young chapters stirring them up. Some of them need it much. They do not all take hold as they should; they do not write often enough. The Delaware boys have been troubled with a low upstart of a

Society called Sigma Phi. They need encouragement; have you written to them lately? We asked leave to establish a chapter at Nashville University, what say you?

Cannot anything be done to revive the Hudson Chapter? Your chapter is a daughter of that noble branch and should watch it. The Alphas used to be there and we should get back before they do. The college is now reviving some. Let us work now and extend our noble institution far and wide. Other societies are springing up and spreading fast and occupying the good places. Let us work then while the day lasts and may the time soon come when a Beta shall meet a Beta and find a brother wherever he may go. Let us be up and doing. But where have I gone to? When I began I intended to write but a few lines about catalogues and here I have bored you about every possible thing! And that too in such bad handwriting that you can never read it.

Pray forgive me. When I get to talking about Beta matters I know not when to stop. Cannot something be done at Wabash? I think one of your members is from Crawfordsville.

ROBERT CARRINGTON, HAMPDEN-SIDNEY, TO DAVID H. MOORE,
OHIO.

HAMPDEN-SIDNEY, April 12, 1856.

Some weeks ago I received a letter from Brother Thomas L. Preston of Omicron, who is now temporary Professor of Latin in Washington College, Va., telling me that he was anxious to establish a chapter of our Society there. We thought it best, as it was so near the end of the session, to found the chapter as a branch of this chapter until authorized by the consent of the other chapters to become a separate and independent one. Accordingly we took the necessary steps and Rho chapter is now established as a branch of this. They have now five members, good and true men, who from their letters seem to be thoroughly imbued with the Greek Spirit and who are to form the nucleus of a Chapter inferior to none in our association if the future members are all to be like the present ones. They have a strong and flourishing rival, the same that has lately established a chapter here in opposition to us, *viz.*, the $\Phi K \Psi$. The $\Phi K \Psi$'s have long held undisturbed possession of Washington College

and have been heard to boast that no rival can contend with them, but we will show them a thing or two.

The name of the new members of the Rho are S. C. Smith, G. T. Lyle, A. H. Fultz, D. Blain and N. C. Luck. The last named one is Recorder. They would be very happy to hear from you. Write and encourage them but do not put your seal upon the letter for it may be seen by some of the barbarians who may be induced to suspect something and the Chapter does not wish its existence known until it has become stronger.

GEORGE B. CAMPBELL, CUMBERLAND, TO DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO.

LEBANON, TENN., May 1st, 1856.

We will elect at our next regular meeting a delegate to represent us at the convention in August. I expect we will send Brother Brown our former Recorder. He will I know represent Mu equally as well as any one we might select. I wish you could be with us at one of our meetings. We have glorious times. You refer in a portion of your letter to the chapter "about to be established at Nashville." We have also given our consent, but stated at the same time the condition of the University at that place. It is not at all prosperous, and I really don't think it would profit our society a great deal by the establishment. I am anxious that there should be one instituted at the University of Alabama. I intend making some efforts to that effect when I return home.

ROBERT CARRINGTON, HAMPDEN-SIDNEY, TO DAVID H. MOORE,
OHIO.

RATCASTLE, HAMPDEN-SIDNEY, VA., May 18th, 1856.

In answer to your interrogatories about the name of this place, I will state the reason why it is called by such a euphaneous appellation. This house belongs to one of the professors who rents it out to the students reserving only one room to himself. When we first came here there was such a number of rats that it was really alarming. They roamed at will about the house and yard both by night and by day, and we were compelled to take up arms against them. By shooting and catching them, we have nearly broken up the breed, but the name still remains as it was first given.

We have hitherto lorded it with absolute sway over this institution, but now there has sprung up in our midst a chapter of Φ K Ψ . We had for some time suspected something of the sort, but our suspicions not being confirmed, we had begun to think it a false alarm. We have found out lately through one of their members to whom we offered membership that it is here. They have been trying very hard to keep it secret but cannot do so being entirely inexperienced in such matters. At all events they will rather do good than harm to our cause. I know very little about them at other places but they seem pretty widely spread having a good many chapters in this state.

DICKINSON P. THRUSTON, MIAMI, TO DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO.

OXFORD, OHIO, May 28, 1856.

We were somewhat disturbed not long ago by the upstarting of a new secret society, the sixth one here. Not indeed on account of the loss of any fellows that Alpha looked upon with greedy eyes, but for the simple reason that the scamps having failed in ingratiating themselves sufficiently into the favour of Alpha and B Θ II, to give rise to even the hope of becoming members, stole the shape of our badge and that they might present the semblance of being Betas, called themselves B Φ 's. We were at first tempted to be angry, but upon more mature consideration concluded that they would not remain long in existence, or if they did, the effect they might produce upon us, would be harmless if not beneficial.

DICKINSON P. THRUSTON, TO DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO.

OXFORD, O., June 12, 1856.

Your communication, containing the noble effusions of a manly, generous soul, came to Alpha's hand in due time, and she desires that hand to shake with you, for a while, as an expression of the supreme delight which has instilled itself into our souls at the likelihood of being favored with a delegation of Greeks from "Kappa" Chapter.

We extend an earnest invitation that a goodly number of you may come. We have no anniversary speaker. No pomp or show will dazzle your eyes, but in social capacity we will meet and converse together, and in retired, secret, assemblage, endeavor to

render the "Kappas" Greeks as happy as we ourselves could desire to be.

We are bound to attend your anniversary and anticipate a glorious time of it. Four of us have made the arrangement to meet at Jo. Fullerton's, Chillicothe, a week before hand and then go over to Athens.

We were surprised the other day by a letter from J. C. Zachos of Antioch College saying that he had received a letter of notification from some chapter of B Θ Π to deliver an oration at their anniversary. We answered soon with the intelligence that we were ignorant what chapter it was, and yesterday he replied that he had referred to the postmark on the envelope and discovered it to be Athens, Ohio. I am rather dull of comprehension on the point, as the information you gave me was that Brother O. P. Shiras would address you. Brother Zachos is an able man, the best elocutionist in America, and as noble, whole souled a Greek as breathes. There may be some mistake still. Get him if there is not, and at your earliest convenience inform me of the matter.

You desire to know the distance of Oxford from Cincinnati, and the time of the trains hither. The railway does not reach Oxford but stops eleven miles from here at Hamilton. Hamilton is twenty-five miles from Cincinnati. There are two trains a day from Cincinnati, one leaving at 5:40 a. m., and the other at 4:40 p. m. Come by all means, and don't be particular about numbers, for we can accommodate any quantity of you.

Have you yet given your consent to the establishment of a chapter at Washington, Virginia? It is now going on under the supervision of Zeta chapter, but I hope the bud will soon burst forth and bloom. Perhaps you have not yet heard of it. If not, write as soon as possible to "Zeta," giving consent at the request of Alpha, for it cannot be founded at all if not at this session. The Beta Phi's are not quite so fresh as at first, but yet occasionally require a slight taking down, and get it too.

ROBERT CARRINGTON, HAMPDEN-SIDNEY, TO WM. W. WHEELER,
MICHIGAN.

HAMPDEN-SIDNEY, PRINCE ED. CO., VA., June 13, 1856.

I have written twice to you since I heard from you, and now

write the third time on business of importance hoping that you will answer without delay. It is to ask your consent to the establishment of a Chapter at Washington College, Lexington, Va. Some weeks ago I received a letter from Brother Thomas L. Preston of Omicron who is now a Professor *pro tem* in that institution, asking for our consent to the establishment of a chapter there. By the advice of the presiding chapter we, as is usual in such cases, went on to establish a chapter there as a branch of this. This was necessary as it would not have been established at all if not done this session, for Brother Preston will not remain longer.

They wish to commence as an independent chapter at the beginning of next session. They have five very fine fellows and true Greeks to start with, and will do honor to our Fraternity. I send you their names, Nathan C. Luck, Recorder; Daniel Blain, A. H. Fultz, George T. Lyle and Samuel C. Smith. I am acquainted with Luck and Blain, and they are very fine fellows. They have a powerful rival in the $\Phi K \Psi$ which has long been established there, but will nevertheless do well. If you wish to encourage the baby they will be very happy to hear from you and will feel deeply any interest you may manifest.

We of Zeta will only have three members in College next session but will try to increase our number as much as possible. Two rival societies have lately sprung up here, the first the $\Phi K \Psi$ and the other the $H I E$. The latter is merely a local affair and of no importance but the former is a large and formidable rival. We do not however intend to yield one jot more than they are able to win by hard fighting.

DICKINSON P. THRUSTON, MIAMI, TO WM. W. WHEELER,
MICHIGAN.

OXFORD, O., June 18, 1856.

Although you are indebted to us for one unanswered letter already, as far as we are able to tell, and we have waited some time, yet I was determined to find out if possible how prospered our beloved and noble sister "Lambda," and for that purpose I am now seated. Our communications passed from time to time in answer to each other, are I think the main-spring, or one of the

principal sources of motion that keeps in healthy action the grand whole. We have for a good while been anxious to hear from you, and the fact that formerly "Lambda" and Alpha kept up so continued a correspondence renders it more singular, not to have heard from you. However, you gave sufficient excuse in your last letter to make up for a while, but that was some time ago. Well it has certainly been by no intention to slight Alpha and with the expectation of hearing soon we will dry the affair up. Of course you have heard from Zeta, of their desire to establish the Rho chapter at Washington College, Va. From what we know of it, it is an institution well worthy of the honor of being the locality of a branch of our glorious association. If you have not ere this, please to write immediately to Brother Carrington (Robt.) at the request of Alpha, giving the sentiment of Lambda on the subject. It is already going on as a branch of Zeta Chapter. When you write don't put your seal on the letter for they are strictly secret. How is Henry W. Beeson progressing? He and I were carrying a correspondence exceedingly pleasant to me, which some how or an other ceased. Give my love to him. Any new accessions? Inform us of anything of importance, relative to Beta affairs. Try to attend the convention as largely as possible. Alpha will be well represented.

GEORGE M. LYTLE, MIAMI, TO DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO.

OXFORD, O., July 23, 1856.

Do not be astonished at receiving a letter from "Alpha" during vacation for if for no other reason, I would gladly correspond with you to keep up an acquaintance so auspiciously begun at our commencement. I have an important request to make of Kappa in Alpha's name, and that is that you will give us your consent for the reviving of the chapter at Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Ind. Mr. M. B. Shipp, a student of that College, was visiting here last week, and Brother Rogers and myself getting acquainted with him were seized with a strong desire to revive the chapter there. We felt confident that any steps we should take would be approved by our chapter for we have been trying for nearly a year to gain a foothold there. Now that the opportunity presented itself, we had nothing to do but to improve it, and so we acted accordingly. We have not acted blindly or

rashly in this matter, for we found he was acquainted with several Betas in Indiana (which by the way is full of them), and we have written to them respecting his character and attainments, and if we find he is not the true metal we can drop him, for we have not in the least committed ourselves. I had several conversations with him and the day before he left, I was nearly half the day in his company, and succeeded in drawing him out, and forcing him to make the advances. He told me that he, with four or five other students there, were talking of starting a "secret society" and that the Faculty were "down" on them, but they felt confident that they could sustain one unknown to the Faculty, but that the great difficulty was, they did not know how to do about getting one up, and he asked my advice and assistance in the matter. I advised him to write to me the beginning of next session and told him I did not doubt but that I could give him some assistance and thus the matter rests between him and me. But I am writing to all the chapters whose colleges are still in session in order to get the consent of as many as possible before the beginning of our next session, so that when our members return we can go right on with the work. If I did not write immediately and urge their answers, we would not probably get the consent of the required number for six months yet, whereas it is desirable that we have it the beginning of next session. You will please communicate this to your chapter and answer immediately at least before your vacation. If we find that Mr. Shipp has not the requisite qualifications for a good Beta we will drop him, for we want to get a good fellow to re-establish the chapter, and thus be sure of having a good chapter.

By the way, from your proximity to Marietta, I think you ought to be able to do something there. We ought to have a chapter there, and I think if you would put forth the effort, you could do something towards it. Have you no members who are acquainted with some good fellow going there by whose means you can get in? There is a secret society there now, and if you ever make the attempt you will have to be careful not to run against any of its members. I hope next session we will have the pleasure of giving our consent for the fixing of another bright star of our glorious constellation at Marietta.

CHAPTER IX

FROM THE CONVENTION OF 1856 TO THE OUTBREAK OF THE CIVIL WAR

WILKINS BRUCE, NORTH CAROLINA, TO DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO.

CHAPEL HILL, N. C., Sept. 6th, 1856.

Being appointed by the club, I take this opportunity of writing to you. I will commence by giving you a statement of the conditions and prospects of our chapter. There are at present about twenty members—a number which though not large is nevertheless quite considerable, if we consider the time the chapter has been in existence.

Our chief difficulty lies in the great number of clubs. When a young man enters college he is immediately selected by some club and if we are not quick, we lose all chance of getting a member. There is a great deal of competition among these clubs, and they do not allow a Freshman time to look about him, and see which of the clubs he would prefer to join, before he is hurried off as it were into some dark corner and initiated. This is a great evil and one which will eventually destroy any club which engages in it to any extent. For by taking into a club a member who is not known and very probably will not be liked by every other member, there will very probably be some bad feeling amongst them, where there ought to be the greatest good will and friendship. We all know that in this case a club cannot well exist. In spite of all this however, I think I can safely say that our condition is very prosperous and our prospects bright. I sincerely hope to hear the same thing from your chapter.

Of our manners and customs, if I may use the expression, I will give you a short description. We meet every two weeks at eight o'clock p. m. If there is any business before the club we transact that first, and then proceed to amuse ourselves in various ways, some talking politics, others discussing the news of the day while a few may be seen off in a corner engaged in a game of cards. After spending an hour or two in this manner we adjourn to some restaurant and take a little something to eat. We

then disperse, some to their studies and others (I suspect the greatest part) to their beds. We are going to try the experiment of acting a few short plays. I think it will be a very agreeable pastime. The only difficulty will consist in getting the boys to learn their parts.

DICKINSON P. THRUSTON, MIAMI, TO E. BRUCE CHANDLER,
MICHIGAN.

OXFORD, OHIO, September 21, 1856.

Your communication was received by me during our summer vacation. It was one of the kind that I seldom get: *viz.*, the kind that does me good. I am confident that henceforth our correspondence will be one of interest and true pleasure to each of us. Surely this is more than our formal acquaintance, in which by a shake of the finger we are said to know each other. Ours is not merely a union of hands, but more, for hearts are here linked inseparably together, and high souls beat in sweet, harmonious unison. I bless the very hour in which it was my lot to enroll my name with those of our cherished association.

But now of Alpha; all that I can say is, that she sweeps all before her—and reigns lord of all the ascendant. In non-accordance with the wishes and energetic endeavors of $\Lambda \Delta \Phi$ and $\Phi \Delta \Theta$. She already succeeded in securing the very best men in College. The struggle was for a time doubtful, but the result was gloriously satisfactory. Three of our men took the honors last year and our commencement was a scene of perfect Beta bliss. But I have something of importance to communicate to you and Lambda. And that is that a glorious opportunity has been opened to us to establish a chapter at old Princeton College. A particular friend of one of our best Betas is now there in the Senior class—and writes that he can assure us of a fine chapter at that place. He is a fellow of the finest qualities and would do honor to the society. He has been looking for a chance for a year, and now the time has come. Write me if you can without a moment's delay with the sentiments of Lambda. It is just what we need, a good Eastern Chapter.

By the decree of the last biennial convention held in Louisville, Ky., it devolved upon Alpha Chapter to transmit a copy

of the minutes and reports of the Convention to each Chapter and also a corrected copy of the constitution as amended by the last convention. We will send them as soon as it is in our power to do so. The job is no small one I can inform you, for each copy will take three hours to write, and there are seventeen chapters to supply.

By the way, why was your chapter not represented? I counted upon it certainly from the tone of your letter. My dear brother—that won't do! However it was not your fault. And Brother Beeson might have been sick. I passed through Detroit on my way to Lake Superior—and became acquainted with Browse T. Prentiss and Thos. C. Gavin, besides some of the old members of your Chapter. If they are all of that stamp they'll pass. Every fellow you see likes Browse. I received your regards through J. S. Dewey, or "Doc Dewey" as we call him. He is an Alpha Delta Phi. As you did not lose but one man last year, I suppose you are flourishing finely this term? I hope so at any rate.

Our next convention two years hence, will be held at Berkeley Springs, Va., under Zeta's control, and after that it will be appointed by the Presiding chapter of the Association—(Alpha).

I wish you would send me a list of Recorders, as far as your knowledge of them extends, for mine I confess is rather limited; another favor would be a catalogue of your institution. I sent Brother Wheeler one of ours. I fully accord with your sentiment in relation to chapters, or rather the establishment of them at worthy colleges; but think there is no excuse for hesitancy with regard to the one at present under contemplation. I hope to hear from you very soon indeed. The old Beta ship seems to float along majestically as ever.

E. BRUCE CHANDLER, MICHIGAN, TO WM. W. WHEELER,
MICHIGAN.

DETROIT, MICH., September 28, 1856.

I think we had better give our consent to Brother Thruston's proposition. Although our attempts at establishing Eastern Branches have heretofore proved abortive, a chance like the one now offered to us at Princeton should not be slighted. We may

not have another chance for a long time, perhaps never; and as there are but one or two societies at Princeton we might better begin there than at Brown or Williams where there are so many. Lay this before the boys or if they are favorable write at once to Oxford.

DICKINSON P. THRUSTON, MIAMI, TO NEWTON I. BEHAN, OHIO.

OXFORD, O., October 1, 1856.

One of the objects in my writing to you this morning, is to obtain the consent of your chapter for the re-establishment of the chapter at Princeton College. It is now in our power to do so. Such a glorious opportunity should in my opinion by no means, be let slip. You would oblige us by answering as soon as you can. In the meantime we will be exerting ourselves to furnish you with the minutes of the convention, and a copy of the constitution, and as revised and amended by all previous conventions. The job is no small one, and it was some time before we could make arrangements for writing them off. Be patient brethren. I wish you would send me a catalogue of your college, if it is convenient, I sent your chapter one of Miami last session. By a provision in the constitution, we must have a recorder, and two corresponding secretaries in each chapter. I am the recorder of Alpha, but from a desire to do something for the Greek cause, and to keep up the acquaintance of some of my old recorder friends, I have picked out Theta, Kappa and Lambda as the ones I shall correspond with. The Corresponding Secretaries were willing on any terms to lessen their duties so gave me the choice.

HENRY B. BOUDE, CENTRE, TO NEWTON I. BEHAN, OHIO.

DANVILLE, KY., October 11, 1856.

By this time you have heard from the convention and if you have the minutes of the same, you are ahead of us. Alpha was to furnish the minutes to all the chapters. None have yet come to us. We were disappointed at the convention not to meet a representative from Kappa. I spoke for the good condition of Kappa when each chapter was called for a report. I was the last who had heard. I would have loved to have seen you amongst that gallant band.

All harmony and brotherly kindness existed, although they were collected from all parts of the Union. The most of us came together entire strangers, but we parted firm and true friends for the attraction of Betaism was strong enough to take all in and we parted as though it were from friends good and tried.

Oh, what is like the glorious principles of our order to draw out the affections! To those who appreciate those feelings, the very mention of the word Beta is sufficient to awaken the deepest and most lasting feelings of his nature.

Your letter, my brother, is full of the Beta spirit. I love to read such over flowings of the soul and hear you talk of such principles. You are the exponent of Kappa's feelings and we take it that Kappa is right.

Yes, our principles are worth fighting for, they are worth dying for if necessary. Some of our brethren have to fight manfully for their rights. Let us who are enjoying prosperity and the favor of Barbarians around sympathize with our brothers in distress. Iota is now, I believe reduced to one member. Write to Brother Craddock and let him know that although fighting alone yet there are those who will stand by him. The faculty and societies are both down on Betaism at Hanover. They have had a tough time so far, and I now fear her mortal career is at an end, but if her light is about to go out, I know that it has been entrusted to good hands.

Iota has passed through many persecutions but her noble hearted sons have defended her manfully. Brother Smoot, her champion, is now at this place attending the Theological Seminary.

There are eight or ten Greeks at the seminary and we have about twelve in college, so this winter we will have a large chapter. Our next session begins the 1st Monday in November.

A. T. THOMPSON, OHIO WESLEYAN, TO NEWTON I. BEHAN,
OHIO.

DELAWARE, O., October, 13, 1856.

Your welcome letter was received a few days ago. The subject of establishing a chapter at Marietta as proposed by your-

self was discussed and unanimously agreed upon by the members of Theta. At our last meeting, we initiated three new members, all good fellows, and promising to be an ornament and an honor to our chapter, and to Betaism in general. We now number eight, in regular attendance; and I assure you, your humble servant excepted, a more generous, noble and whole souled set of fellows never were met before.

DICKINSON P. THRUSTON, MIAMI, TO DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO.

OXFORD, OHIO, October 14, 1856.

By a resolution of the late convention, "Alpha" was authorized to levy assessments on the other chapters to defray the expense of copying and transmitting the minutes, and constitution (as corrected). Your share of the assessments is (\$4.00) four dollars. Please forward the amount as quickly as possible, and oblige the members of Alpha. Part of your assessment goes to pay your share towards the settling of the remainder of the old catalogue bill.

N. C. LUCK, WASHINGTON, VA., TO N. I. BEHAN, OHIO.

LEXINGTON, VA., October 14, 1856.

I received your letter some days ago, but have not found time until tonight to answer it. I am truly glad to hear that your chapter is in a flourishing condition. I wish the Faculty would apply for initiation into the mysteries of B @ II. They are rather inimical to secret societies here.

October 21st. A long delay has been caused partly by laxness and partly by one of our members sending in his resignation. I can't say that I am sorry that he is going to resign (as far as the man is concerned). He can do us no harm I think. I think he is very sorry indeed that he has offered his resignation. He gives as his reason for so doing, that the faculty look upon Secret Societies with a scornful eye and I think he wants to take a good "slam" in his class. That will make no difference as far as his stand is concerned. There is something which lies deeper than he will state. Well if he can't make known what his reason is to us Greeks then let him go. The society will with one voice say "go thy way." We fear it will reflect some what on our

glorious Fraternity. He made a bargain with a $\Phi K \Psi$ to withdraw and now both of them sent in their resignations. We have taken in three men and have several men on scrutiny. The $\Phi K \Psi$'s have elected two of our men and made them aware of it and had several more of our members up before their order.

DICKINSON P. THRUSTON, MIAMI, TO E. BRUCE CHANDLER,
MICHIGAN.

OXFORD, O., October 15, 1856.

I was glad to hear that Brother Larimore was going to Princeton. He can be of great assistance to *Livingston Welling* (the gentleman who is starting the chapter) in giving things the right kind of a "shove." Had we heard that a brother from Lambda was going to Princeton, in time, nothing would have given Alpha more pleasure than to have relinquished all responsibility in the matter, into the hands of your Chapter. We had sent the Constitution, however, before your communication arrived, having received the consent of enough of the Chapters. I hope you will give no more thought, about the honor of establishing the chapter, for in the end it is all the same. We are all united under one common standard, and what one does, we all are with him. Whether Alpha, Lambda, or Kappa does anything for the furtherance of the noble cause, we are content. The Princeton Chapter will be called "Upsilon." Recollect the name Livingston Welling, so that Brother Larimore may hunt him up. I wrote to him today and expect to hear from him soon. I received a communication from "Delta" a short time ago, saying that they had established the Sigma Chapter at Jacksonville, Ill., with general consent. The recorder is C. H. Philbrick. They have a talented set of fellows there it seems. Good news from Iota too, which we thought had died out, as all left but one member and he was watched and suspected by the President of the College. We hear that the remaining member had taken in two new members, and have good prospects. Indeed from the Chapters generally accounts are flourishing, and we have reason to think that the noble and glorious order of $B \Theta \Pi$ is at the acme of its glory.

HENRY B. BOUDE, CENTRE, TO NEWTON I. BEHAN, OHIO.

DANVILLE, KY., October 28, 1856.

I can truly say that it was with heart felt joy that I received your letter of the 15th, I was long, too long, answering you before but like true Betas, you forgave (although I was scarcely to blame) the fault. I find in you the most punctual recorder of the Association. There are few who are as punctual as they should be. I look upon our correspondence as the connecting link, yes, the very lungs of the order. During this vacation, I have not written many letters for my hands have been full and then my chapter was not here to answer some of the many demands of the order. But now we are about to come together again and Epsilon will be found at her post. Ah, how I love thus to hold converse with those I know not, and yet I do know. There is a telegraphic communication between hearts which is invisible but felt.

I love the manner in which you speak of our noble order. Of her genuine principles and her noble sons. You have the true spirit of the order and I wish you would awaken some of our tardy brethren.

I have the minutes of the convention before me, I believe they are correct with one exception. The second resolution should give the convention the power to fix the place of its next meeting. The convention did fix the place for its next meeting yet the power for doing so is nowhere expressed in the minutes. It may be only a mistake of our copy.

You speak of the recorder of Iota. His name is S. F. Gilmore. Brother Craddock did not return and for a day or two the chapter was entirely defunct, but Brother Smoot, the champion of Betaism at Hanover, went up and found three or four worthy souls and put them to work. They are young in the cause and need our support and sympathy. Brother Smoot says they are of the old Iota stamp—then I'll risk that they are right.

JOHN B. ROBB, JEFFERSON, TO NEWTON I. BEHAN, OHIO.

CANONSBURG, PA., November 17, 1856.

Doubtless you are aware that I quietly and suddenly

took my departure from Xi Chapter last spring. Why all these things so happened, no matter. I am now numbered among the faithful of Gamma. When I left Xi Chapter at Knox, I was their Secretary. Permit me to mention that last April a difficulty occurred at Knox between the Faculty and some of the students. This resulted in five Greeks taking their dismissal from college. Two went to Ann Arbor, one to Yale, one to Wabash and one to Jefferson. So much so good. I am highly pleased with the Brothers here. They are the men of the college. If we are few, we are strong, we are united. You think Beta Timber scarce. We can respond "ditto." We have some under scrutiny and will baptize them Greeks soon. Our number is eight, four of whom are Seniors and four Juniors. In number we are less than any society in college, but pass the number, and we boldly bid defiance to every combination. I can in all sincerity say the Betas are the only society here who act like brothers. They are governed by the identical principles they profess. Not so with the $\Phi \Gamma \Delta$, $\Phi \Kappa \Psi$ and $\Phi \Kappa \Sigma$. They are societies of policy and consequently of discord. Wherever it has been my good fortune to meet the true and faithful Greek, I have found him invariably a man of honor and ability.

THOMAS C. CUNNINGHAM, HANOVER, TO NEWTON I. BEHAN,
OHIO.

SOUTH HANOVER, IND., November 18, 1856.

I find in looking over a large list of unanswered letters handed me by Brother Gilmore, several from yourself. Our only excuse for not answering more promptly is that until lately we were not fairly organized. Now our sails are ahead and we are making rapid progress on the bosom of the Great Betaic Sea. Whenever we see one floating to destruction down the great barbarian sea, worthy of being one of our noble crew, we throw him a rope, which he eagerly grasps, and he is safely landed upon our proud ship. But here I am running on at a fast rate without introducing myself. However, an introduction is not necessary, for as soon as we sign the great Beta Constitution, we become acquainted with each other. It is sufficient to know that you are a Beta, and that I am one. Iota's sons are now fewer in numbers,

and no doubt in talent than her sons were last term, but nevertheless, she will strive ever onward. I have just come from a meeting of our noble society. We admitted another member to-night, and now number altogether six, James W. Raine, S. F. Gilmore, F. G. Wilson, J. F. Mount, Blake (disremember his first name) and your humble servant. Our members (leaving myself out) are most assuredly the flower of Hanover college.

So much influence and power have they, that whenever they speak the barbarians obey. They have no idea that a Beta chapter at the present time exists in Hanover. At an election of spring speakers in the Union Literary Society four of our number were elected, the sum total of all belonging to that society. Every man, they nominated was elected by a large majority. We had a most glorious time tonight, but notwithstanding the many pleasures it affords me to meet with them, yet in doing so, I feel sad, sad to know that they are not there who formerly were, and there are none to fill their places. We no longer hear their dearly loved voices and no more do we have their good counsel and advice.

JOHN J. DUPUY, HAMPDEN-SIDNEY, TO NEWTON I. BEHAN,
OHIO.

HAMPDEN-SIDNEY, VA., November 27, 1856.

Under the direction of the revised constitution, we have now two recorders who divide the duties of correspondence between them. J. F. McIlwaine and myself officiate in that capacity. Zeta is doing well. We have eight clever members in college, and about as many in the Union Theological Seminary. We took in a new member last night who had refused to join our rivals, the Phi Kappa Psi. This makes as large a number as we think proper to have at present. I hope you will not seal your letters to me with the Beta seal, since I do not want it known that I am a Greek yet.

NATHAN C. LUCK, WASHINGTON, VA., TO JOHN J. TAYLOR, OHIO.

LEXINGTON, VA., December 18, 1856.

We have the pleasure of having one of Gamma's men with us. He is a preacher, and is living near here, and is as true a

Greek as ever lived. He gave us some points concerning our fraternity. Rho is in a flourishing condition. All the chapters seem to be doing well. I heard from Iota this morning, she says Delta is not exactly defunct but thinks she will soon be able again to take her stand amidst the stars of the Beta Firmament and shine as she has been accustomed to do. We have our number complete. We represent the nine muses now, and why not remain so? Please tell me where Beta Chapter is situated and the name of its Recorder. I am truly glad to hear that it has been reestablished. I dislike so much to hear of chapters becoming defunct. I don't like the word anyway. I received a letter from Xi chapter not many days since and it said that Kappa was defunct. I knew that could hardly be so. I suppose you know whether she is or not. He made a mistake. He meant Delta. I am glad to hear you are about establishing a chapter at Marietta College. Yes, we are always glad to hear of the attempt to establish new chapters. We will try in vacation to establish one at William and Mary College in this state. It is the oldest college in the state and is one of the best.

J. NORRIS SMITH, JEFFERSON, TO NEWTON I. BEHAN, OHIO.

CANONSBURG, PA., December 20th, 1856.

Brother Robb, one of our Corresponding Secretaries has requested me to write a reply to your last communication. He pleads want of time as an excuse for not writing in person, so with much distrust as to my ability to adequately fill his place, I have consented to become his medium, or at least to try.

Though a member of the fraternity upwards of a year, I have never yet attempted to write what might be called a true Beta letter, so you will attribute all my delinquencies to inexperience. I wish to tell you something about Gamma, her condition and prospects. The Chapter at present consists of eight members. Besides, we have an old and tried Greek, a resident of the place, and by profession a physician. Him we make our counselor.

I deem it unnecessary to give the names of our band. Four of us are Seniors and four are Juniors (I am one to the latter). I consider our Seniors the very flower of the College. We have but one source of regret, that is, our entire failure as yet in

finding in the lower classes men worthy to share in the honors and pleasures of Betaism. We are not however, discouraged. In short we are determined to act on the principle which you speak in your last epistle that "a Beta *nascitur non fit*." There is such a thing as congeniality of feeling; yes, there are kindred hearts. Gamma brings this to bear as a touchstone in the selection of men. I believe our Chapter is considered by some of the others as one of the bright particular stars in the Beta firmament. If she be such I attribute all her success to just what I have been speaking of, a rigid scrutiny and strict care in the choice of her members. We have many rivals here who though they outnumbered us, stand immeasurably inferior in talent and respectability. Our strongest enemy is the Phi Kappa Psi, whose object is power. To obtain this end they use base and dishonorable means. Hence our bitter hostility to this child of Satan.

DAVID C. MARQUIS, JEFFERSON, TO NEWTON I. BEHAN, OHIO.

CANONSBURG, PA., Dec. 31, 1856.

Although I have never met you, and perhaps never will, yet I hail you as a Brother, grasp your hand and in imagination give it a real Beta squeeze and we are as well acquainted as an intercourse of ten years. This letter must necessarily be short because time presses, and because you already owe us a letter and I do not wish to burden you with a heavy debt, but my next letter shall be of more respectable length and I shall at least try to make it more Grecian in its character. I am not aware that you corresponded with Brother Hays our last Recorder. If you did you mustn't expect such an epistolary treat from me as you would from him.

This is not fulsome adulation. He graduated with honors in the last Class. (Not with a class honor) with five, other good Greeks, all noble fellows tried and true, leaving us rather a slim community. We are but eight all told, but each one feels himself a host, while battling in the sacred cause of Grecian progress. We have our peepers fixed on two or three "savages" of whom we may make something some day, but amongst seventy-five new students we cannot find one of whom we are sure of ever making a Greek; simply because they do not appear to have Grecian souls. We are extremely particular, almost fastidious in our selections

believing that the success of our Association depends on individual Character alone, and that Betas as well as Poets "are born not made."

We have no men lower than the Junior Class but we are casting our eyes about us for a Sophomore or Freshman. We have any quantity of active enemies but they can't hurt us because they can't get us. We move in an atmosphere entirely distinct from theirs and despite their exertions they see us still aloft.

Our meetings are a mingling of literary and social elements, the latter predominating. A criticism or review of some popular work is read by a member at each in order that all may be benefited by the reading of one; then business pertaining to the Association and to our Chapter is discussed, jokes are cracked and "cutes" perpetrated. Then at a late hour we defile in platoons of two to the ladies' saloon where we invariably find a sumptuous repast spread of all the good things and the able sons of Ham awaiting to do honor to the soldiers of Agamemnon. There secure from observation or interruption, while those without think all is hushed and dark within, we go in for a jolly time, and faith we have it to our hearts' content. We have no stated time for meetings, just whenever we feel like it. Though we have met in one room (the same I now occupy) for the last ten years.

J. HOWE WATTS, INDIANA, TO NEWTON I. BEHAN, OHIO.

BLOOMINGTON, IND., January 6, 1857.

I most sincerely beg your pardon for so long forgetting you. Our chapter has been in so much confusion for some time, that I hardly felt in the mood to write, although then I might have experienced the consolation of a Brother's sympathies in the task, but I now rejoice that all goes right with us again, and I am now in mood to hold out the pen of friendship to all the brotherhood with the greatest joy. As an individual has his ups and his downs, so our chapters have their ups and downs in life, variations from which our chapter has not been exempt. Our noblest and most cherished plans have been defeated, and ourselves wantonly mocked because of our failure. We are now, however, in fine spirits at the opening of the session, and anticipate a bright season of enjoyment in the "mutual interchange of sympathy" for what man so poor, or what man so rich, as to be beyond

the power of receiving comfort from sympathizing with his best friends.

"Man is born in society, and there he remains" was the simple but truthful saying of the illustrious Frenchman, and man seldom gets weary of his position. Hordes of barbarians are surrounding our little band each with his mouth wide enough open to swallow up two or three common chapters, but when their ruthless hands are stretched forth, to destroy all that is beautiful upon the earth, to raze to the ground our noble and loved institution, and to spread desolation and gloom over so many happy faces "we ain't there." We initiated a new member an evening or two ago, and are slowly gaining ground.

Alas, alas, you now are mourners, and we deeply sympathize with you. It is enough to move the hardest heart to read the simple and truthful remarks and resolutions on the death of our beloved brother. How then must a Greek feel who always has his heart open to the troubles of his brother.

We should all strive to imitate his good qualities, revere his memory, and cherish a warm recollection of his connections with us. "May my last end be like his." All is well with us.

THOMAS T. HEATH, OHIO WESLEYAN, TO NEWTON I. BEHAN,
OHIO.

DELAWARE, O., February 3, 1857.

For weeks past, a series of religious meetings in all the churches have occupied our attention so that it has been impossible to find time enough to perform our Betas duties. Theta chapter is not losing any of her love for the brotherhood but has not held a meeting for some weeks. Now, however, we begin to work as of old.

We are meeting with a good deal of opposition from a society called "Sigma Chi." It outnumbers us, and in our college society elections always beats us, but then with a very few exceptions its members are second-class men, and such as we would not have. We however, fear not and every good man who comes to Delaware is bound to be a Beta.

AUGUSTUS D. LYNCH, INDIANA, TO NEWTON I. BEHAN, OHIO.

BLOOMINGTON, IND., February 17, 1857.

I am just entering upon the duty of Beta correspondence, at least since my connection with this Chapter. I was formerly connected with Delta, but at the time of our college difficulty, I was one of the hundred who left, and sought a home where freedom of speech and the privileges of students and men were granted. Ten of the Senior class came to the Institution and have never regretted it. We have here a competent Faculty, energetic men, and gentlemen. Delta was entirely broken up at the time of the difficulty but two of our members have returned, one Junior and Sophomore. They will revive the Chapter.

The Faculty at Asbury have granted all the former privileges, but they repented too late as most of the students have entered other universities.

Pi is in a healthy condition. We number eight at present but are continually on the look out for seasoned timber.

We hear occasionally that your chapter has departed this life. But let us not believe it. May our stars never grow less, but increase in number and brightness year after year.

JOHN WOODS, MIAMI, TO DAVID M. JOHNSON, MICHIGAN.

OXFORD, OHIO, March 7, 1857.

I find a letter of Feb. 20th, from you, among a pile which now require my official attention. At our last meeting the humble personage whose name will be appended to this epistle, was elected to fill the vacancy caused by Brother Battle going home. We were all grieved to lose him, for he was very popular in college, and we were proud to call him a Beta. I am convinced that he would much better fill the post of Secretary than myself, yet if my letters may lack gracefulness or interest, you will "hear me for my cause," and every fault will be covered and hidden by the broad mantle of the brotherhood.

We are glad to learn that your chapter is prosperous. Alpha cherishes a kind of parental feeling toward all her offspring, rejoicing with them that rejoice, and mourning with them that mourn.

You mention the project of a union with the Psi Upsilon

Society which was sometime ago agitated. I have not heard any of our members express an opinion on the subject, and cannot therefore speak officially. I was absent from the meeting at which your letter was read. For my own part I feel inclined to favor the thing. It is a settled fact, it would seem, that the Beta Society is doomed to failure in every attempt to establish eastern chapters.

If we could arrange some plan of consolidation with an order which is already in good standing in eastern institutions, I can see as yet no objection to such a consummation. On the other hand, what an ascendancy it would give us over all other Greek-letter Societies in the country. Mutual concessions would of course have to be made. Some things which are very dear to us would have to be given up—and of them, too, we should require some changes. But would not the advantages more than atone for these difficulties? I think they would. I am sorry I have not been able to converse on this very important matter with other *Alphas*, but there is ample time to discuss it previous to the next Convention. Let us have the sense of the whole body of chapters on the subject.

I do not feel competent to express an opinion on the question whether your chapter ought, or ought not to have the name of Zeta. Better let it rest as it is at present. It may have been wrong, originally, to deprive you of that seal and letter, but it has been done, another chapter has received your old title, and it would perhaps create too much ill feeling to change it, under these circumstances. I do not think that it matters much, by what letter a chapter is known. Age may add somewhat to the dignity of a body, but if youthful associations are conducted on the right principles it is all the same in the end. You were undoubtedly entitled to the name of Z when the chapter was re-organized. Whether you could now assume it, is another question. It is a principle in law that there should be some limit to litigation, and the principle is undoubtedly just. A man may owe me a sum of money, and he will never cease to owe it, as long as the obligation is not cancelled; and yet, after a certain time I cannot exact payment. The doctrine is plain. This is the statute we plead against your claim—the statute of limitations.

But we do not wish to be arbitrary in this affair. We have

no right to deny your wishes at all. It is a case for a higher tribunal than a single chapter.

JOSEPH F. MCILWAINE, HAMPDEN-SIDNEY, TO DAVID M. JOHNSON, MICHIGAN.

HAMPDEN-SIDNEY, VA., April 2, 1857.

Your letter was received some time ago and should have been answered long ere this; but I have been away from college nearly all the time since it came to hand, consequently, I was not able to reply to it. I was glad to hear that Lambda was in such a flourishing condition and can return the same tidings of Zeta. I was also glad to find that your members were so particular in scrutinizing and you may rest assured that we are fully as particular. None but the very best can enter Zeta, and in addition to fine intellect, a candidate must have a good social disposition or he is kept out of our chapter. I wish all the chapters were as particular as yours and ours and no doubt they are, as I never heard of a single individual bringing disgrace on our beloved association; however we cannot scrutinize too severely, for one black sheep, brought into our midst, would destroy the whole flock and bring disgrace on the chapter that nourished him. We have nine members now, and considering the number of students we have this session (100) I think we are doing admirably well. I heard from one of the sister chapters, a few days ago, that Lambda is wishing for our name "Zeta." Well, we would like to accommodate you all mightily, but don't think it would do any good, and would just be making confusion for nothing, therefore we hope you all will rest content with your present *cognomen*. We were once called "Lambda," ourselves, but the convention changed us and now we would like to remain what we were christened by the convention. Ours is the presiding chapter this term; but we haven't had any work to perform, I believe it is customary for the presiding chapter to send a copy of the constitution to all new chapters; but we haven't been applied to, consequently haven't sent the constitution anywhere.

I thought to found a chapter we had to send a member to the institution, in which we wish the chapter, and that we couldn't found one in any other way. This is the way all the chapters

in Virginia were formed; but if we can *constitutionally* found them in the way you proposed, I think we could extend our association all through the South.

GEORGE S. FULLERTON, MIAMI, TO NEWTON I. BEHAN, OHIO.

OXFORD, O., April 11th, 1857.

I expect that you will think that I have not performed my duty in not answering your kind letter sooner. I am afraid that my correspondents will begin to think that I am not fully imbued by the true Beta Spirit, but the fact is that I never was a letter writer, and don't know that I ever will be. In fact, I don't believe that writing of any kind is my forte. I am a huge talker however.

Then, when a fellow gets one letter done there are nine or ten more of the same kind to be written. To write the same thing over and over again is a prodigious bore and to scrape up something different is almost an impossibility with me. I hope that no one of my correspondents will quote anything that I may say in their letters to other chapters for I have written the same thing to every chapter.

What do you think of the proposed coalition with the Psi Upsilon? They are an Eastern society and as we have failed in establishing in the East, I feel inclined to favor the movement. Sacrifices would have to be made on both sides, but if they are a good society and a coalition can be effected without much sacrifice, I am willing that the matter should be agitated.

NATHAN C. LUCK, WASHINGTON, VA., TO NEWTON I. BEHAN, O.

LEXINGTON, VA., April 14th, '57.

Will you not give us a correspondence? I have written to you since we have heard from your chapter. Why stop a correspondence which seems begun with so much enthusiasm? Rho has ten members and is "right side up with care." Let us hear from you soon.

CYRUS B. TRIMBLE, CENTRE, TO HUGH BOYD, OHIO.

DANVILLE, KY., June 22, 1857.

It was with great pleasure and considerable surprise (for we had almost ceased looking for them) that we received the

box containing Catalogues. Epsilon desires to congratulate Kappa upon the completion of so arduous an undertaking as that which you have so satisfactorily finished and though not having ever seen you, yet the bond which unites us, is sufficiently strong, to call for my personal congratulations upon the conclusion of your personal labors which must have been great. The books are beautifully gotten up and please us in every particular. You displayed your taste in retaining the plate which no amount of inspection can exhaust of beauty.

After some investigating and exercise of ingenuity, I have unraveled the mysteries contained in the second column of the catalogues.

Our Chapter is in a flourishing condition, numbering fifteen whereof we must except four seniors who will take their leave of College at Commencement next week. We will have at least nine members to begin next session with. To-night we hope to take in a new brother, one who very strangely has been neglected by the other societies, and who would have been long ago a member of ours, but that we wished to observe—and there was moreover a mistake which has thus far kept him out. Be sure we have a sufficiently exalted appreciation of the honor we confer in initiation, and high enough regard for the dignity of the ancient and honorable order of B Θ Π to be extremely select and choice in our making members. We have another rival to contend with—in a new Society organized here calling themselves A K Φ's I think. The indiscriminateness with which they choose members will save us the trouble of putting it down or any danger from its existence. In fact it is a burlesque on Secret organizations—though organized in all hope of its everlasting existence, I suppose.

AARON M. FLORY, MIAMI, TO BROWSE T. PRENTIS, MICHIGAN.

MIAMI UNIVERSITY, October 19, 1857.

It is with much pleasure that I as A's Corresponding Secretary attempt to address an unknown friend. I say friend, for anyone who bears the name of Beta is well worthy the "friendship of mine"—the friendship of the noble and good (don't consider ourself the noble and good). A selfish misanthropist never penetrates the hallowed sanctum of

the Beta society. It must need be a man of heart and soul, whose very nature stands forth clothed in all the beauty of true manhood, which plainly tells to the world that his nature contains no ingredient that should not be in the combination of the true man.

It is necessary that Greeks should, in all parts of this "fair domain," be bound together by the ties of friendship—ties which cement noble minds into one, and knit together soul and body with love's noble flame. Some one has well said, that friendship is love refined, and purged from all its dross, the next to angels' love, if not the same. But enough of this, "feast not on heart throbs but rather reason." When I get to writing thus, I always feel as if the preliminary steps were being taken to "pop the question" to some "fair angel" inside—well, of a strong barrier. I must confess it is somewhat of an awkward position for us, this thing of writing the first Beta letter. Letters should be the "most delightful things in the world," full of wit and mirth, so as to give the reader a good laugh, to jar the cobwebs from his brain. The music of the writer's soul should pour forth in strains sweet as the melody of Apollo's lute, his pen should speak his mind in "thoughts that breathe and words that burn," or the social feast of painted thoughts will lend no charm to be by fancy moulded into a thing of life upon which the reader may center his affection. We love to read good letters, but can't write them and if we have not been "born to speech—born best heir to half our mother's tongue"—we will have to be one of the "still-water-run-deep" kind of fellows.

Well, I suppose you would rather hear something of Alpha's prosperity; her joys, sorrows, tribulations, persecutions and her grand achievements of success. In scriptural language she is daily having her spiritual strength renewed, her sorrows soothed by the essence of joy, her tribulations healed by the balm of mutual confidence, her persecutions overcome by the eternal go-a-head-a-tiveness of the true Greek nature. The spirit of the Spartan leads old Alpha on over every difficulty, proudly looming above every other association here. We have an abundance of opposition however. The Alpha Delta Phi are the most powerful here in numbers and by far the least popular. We consider them the distilled essence of deceit preserved in the can of

meanness, closed with the wax of the most supreme selfishness. You may soon expect to hear of a grand war, blow-up, knock-down and drag-out kind of a time at "Old Miami," if we are not mistaken in the "signs of the times." It is about the time for the election of winter speakers (each literary society elects four men to deliver public orations at the close of the fall term), and in two of the societies the finest orators and writers are Betas; but a different secret society has concentrated its force in each of the literary societies, so we depend mostly on the barbarians and our own genius at intrigue. If we are not used fairly, we propose giving them the force of the Beta arm. Old Alpha has a splendid chapter now—some eighteen noble-hearted men—and, laying all prejudice aside, the finest talent in the University. We have taken all the good timber of this session and left the second-rate for the other societies to work on, and, by the way, our new fellows have had the fun of smoking a quantity of good cigars and eating oysters at the expense of our opponents, who proposed to them after they had been redeemed. I do not know who Lambda's Secretary is, so at brother Thruston's suggestion, I write to you. Alpha sends her kindest wishes to Lambda and hopes to hear from her quickly.

JAMES M. WALTON, HAMPDEN-SIDNEY, TO GEO. W. WALL,
MICHIGAN.

HAMPDEN-SIDNEY COLLEGE, Nov. 2nd, 1857.

Yours of the 11th of Oct. was duly received. I was very glad to get it as there has been so little correspondence carried on hitherto between our sister chapters. I received a letter not long ago from Brother Croom of Chapel Hill, N. C., requesting me to aid in getting the votes of all our Sister Chapters for the purpose of establishing a chapter at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, S. C. You will please aid us in getting the votes of the chapters. He complains to me of the recorders in writing to each other, and requests me to ask you as well as the other recorders to write to him soon and I hope you will try and get the Chapters to carry on a more faithful correspondence. We were exceedingly glad to hear that Lambda was doing so well and had such flattering prospects before her of success. I

will give you a list of the recorders as far as I know them having only heard from three chapters this session. I don't know who are the new recorders of the respective chapters but will give you the list I have in possession.

J. M. BOOKMAN, CUMBERLAND, TO NEWTON I. BEHAN, OHIO.

LEBANON, TENN., November 30, 1857.

We are getting along harmoniously in the good cause. We have never yet encountered any opposition, nor has there occurred the least thing to mar the good feelings and friendship existing among the brethren. We are all devoted to our "order" and come weal or come woe, every Beta will be true to his colors. We have taken in five members this session, who are all as a matter of course of the right stripe and of the truest grit. We also have several on probation. Henceforth, we'll have competition. The "Barbarians" have succeeded in establishing here a chapter of the Alpha Delta Phi. They are making a clean sweep of everything, taking in the "rag, tag and bob tail" of the University, and I imagine they have glorious times in their deliberations. But we apprehend no danger from them whatever but are pursuing the even tenor of our way, confident of commanding respect even in the midst of our foes.

UPTON J. HAMMOND, INDIANA ASBURY, TO HUGH BOYD, OHIO.

GREENCASTLE, INDIANA, December 20th, 1857.

Though our Brothers at the Ohio University have not been heard from for more than a year, yet we hope that through the happy mediation of Betaism, your hearts may be made to respond to ours.

Then give me the right hand of fellowship, and there will be a correspondence between thee and me. The opinion seems to have generally prevailed, as far as I have heard from the different Chapters, that time honored Delta had "shuffled off her mortal coil." A greater mistake, however, there never was. Even from the time when the cloud of misfortune threatened to blight the prospects of Asbury and nip the hopes of Delta in the bud, a few Greeks faithful and true, have clung to the horns of the sacred

altar. The discourse, "dog" and devotion which enliven our meetings have an influence on our heart of hearts which knows no faltering.

We number seven as staunch fellows as ever trod the halls of our Alma Mater, and have a young fellow on scrutiny who will doubtless become a member at the first meeting of the coming term. He will be a valuable acquisition.

The prospects for a bitter opposition from other secret organizations are bright indeed. "Let it come" is the unanimous voice of the Chapter. There is nothing like having something to rub against.

We received a letter from Hampden Sidney College a few days ago asking our permission to establish Chapters at two colleges in North Carolina, the names of which I now forget. I am glad to see the association "extending its stakes."

HARRISON McNEIL, INDIANA, TO HUGH BOYD, OHIO.

BLOOMINGTON, IND., Dec. 28th, 1857

Having understood, that you were corresponding secretary of Kappa I have concluded to address you as such and should I not express my thoughts in that beauty of language, which makes letter writing and letter reading so delightful, I hope you will pass it over as the "imperfections" of one newly initiated into the good cause, I say good cause, because I cannot conceive of anything that can compare with the privileges a corresponding secretary of one of the chapters of Beta Theta Pi possesses. To converse with friends with whom we are unacquainted, and whom, were we to meet them in the great world, we would pass them "unknown and unknowing" is, in my opinion a privilege that might be envied by the best of men. It is the existence of our order which gives us this advantage over the common herd of mankind. It is this advantage which makes us feel for its preservation and continuation. It is this advantage which throws life and spirit into this order, and we as secretaries of our chapters should endeavor to keep this spirit alive and not suffer it to become languid by neglect. I know not how it is with you but as for Pi I must say that she receives but very few letters from the sister chapters and indeed sometimes she is almost ready to

conclude, that the other chapters have forgotten her, and now regard her as thing that existed, but is not. It should be the wish of every true Greek to waken up his brethren, urge them on in the good cause and endeavor to bring the order up to that point of greatness, which she will one day arrive at, if every Greek would rise in the might of his power, and girding on his Grecian panoply go forth to fight against the difficulties which encompass her around about. It is impossible for any association, based on the principles which Beta Theta Pi is to remain long unimpaired, unless there is a mutual sympathy existing between the different chapters. Pi is doing well, prospering finely, increasing in numbers, pricking up her ears, etc., etc. She numbers eight at present, *viz.* :

N. S. Givan, Manchester, Ind.; Wm. F. Moffet, Bloomington, Ind.; Wm. M. Springer, Jacksonville, Ill.; Newton Burwell, Bluffton, Ind.; Nicholas Vanhorn, Bluffton, Ind.; S. Wylie Dodds, Bloomington, Ind.; Harrison McNeil, Princeton, Ind.; John Wilson, Ellisville, Ind.

Besides these, we have several in town here, who attend meetings, although they are not attending college.

JAMES D. KERR, WASHINGTON, TO HUGH BOYD, OHIO.

WASHINGTON, PA., DECEMBER 28, 1857.

It is with feelings of gratitude and pleasure that I now address you; gratitude that I have been thought worthy to be received as a member of those who compose the glorious order of Beta Theta Pi; pleasure that by this reception I am permitted to hold brotherly converse with those I know not; and yet with whom I am connected by indissoluble bonds.

Thanks to the noble founders of the order for this rare privilege—for this heart's pleasure. They are well worthy to receive all praise, and the homage of grateful hearts. This deed of theirs should be written high on that scroll which records the actions of great men. Long may the temple which they have erected tower aloft, gathering into it the refined, the talented, the noble of earth. Long may the deep-laid foundation on which the glorious superstructure is reared, remain in its rockbound bed. Long may the principles of true Betaism flourish, bearing with them peace on earth, good will to men.

There are those who although ignorant of the nature of such societies, rail against them, and heap their calumnies upon them; but so long as ours continues upon its present broad Christian principles; so long it is destined to live exerting a hallowed influence upon all those with whom it comes in contact. To endeavor to destroy it would be like the efforts that were made to put down the reformation of the sixteenth century; mighty in themselves but, small in their results. The nature of such societies can only be judged by the character of their members, and by their results; and looking at ours in this light do we not present a most favorable appearance. Our members are taking their position among the revered and honored of the land. What more could we wish? If we who are now preparing for the battle of life discharge our duties as well as those who have gone before; then the course of Betaism, will not suffer reproach. Then will the watch fires continue to blaze high, giving light to the feet of high souled Greeks, but frightening away the ruthless hordes of Barbarians, who prowl about our track, and infest our corners. One of these duties which by the way has been ruefully neglected is the corresponding of the Chapters.

On behalf of Nu I must confess that we have been very remiss in discharging this duty but we have seen the evil of our ways and have commenced to do better. Brother Clark, and myself are now engaged in writing to all the Chapters and hope to receive prompt answers.

Our prospects at present in point of members are not very flattering. We are few (numbering four) but, our hearts are stout and bold, and trusting to the integrity of our cause we will march to victory or death. We have strong opposition in the persons of the Phi Kappa Psi and Phi Gamma Delta. They snatch men as soon as they come, but we will not do so; thinking it better to have a few tried souls than to take in those who will bring a stigma upon our fair name.

EDWARD B. WRIGHT, WESTERN RESERVE, TO HUGH BOYD, OHIO.

HUDSON, OHIO, December 30, 1857.

Our Class (Junior) has just finished its biennial examination and the appointments for Junior Exhibition are out. Two Betas

took the Latin and Greek orations. We now have the best scholars in the three highest classes and hope to have the best in the new class. We have the $\Lambda \Delta \Phi$ to contend with. They boast of Chapters in Eastern Colleges and of big men in their catalog rather than any decided merit *in se and per se*. A Beta was put in as a President from the literary society a short time since against a member of the Λ .

I am glad to see that some of our Chapters are extending our Society to new Colleges. Now Kappa I have a proposition to make to you. There is Marietta College within I don't know how few miles of you and it is a good College and there is a chance to immortalize yourself. Get the consent of the other Chapters and go and establish one there.

I have reason to believe that there are no secret societies there now and it is a fine chance for us. It's your duty and you mustn't back out. Extension! Extension! Should be our cry.

JAMES M. WALTON, HAMPDEN-SIDNEY, TO HUGH BOYD, OHIO.

HAMPDEN-SIDNEY, January 11, 1858.

We are anxious to establish a new chapter at Davidson College, N. C., and wish to get the consent of all our sister chapters as soon as possible as we have had it in contemplation for some time. We have found out that the right sort of material can be found at Davidson College and we are therefore anxious to establish a chapter there. I hope, therefore, that your chapter will act upon it and let us know as soon as possible. I hope the time is not far distant when Betaism shall be spread throughout the entire South. So that there will be at least one band of brothers which sectional influence can never sever, nor break the ties of affection and love by which we are so closely bound together.

ROBERT H. KINNAIRD, CENTRE, TO JAMES H. GARDNER, OHIO.

DANVILLE, KY., January 19, 1858.

Letters have lately been coming in very slowly to Epsilon. Many of the chapters are becoming a little remiss in their correspondence. Kappa I am happy to say is one of Epsilon's

especial favorites with whom she wishes to keep ever in love, by means of an intimate and regular communication.

We have received letters lately from Lambda, Rho and Nu. They all give glowing accounts of their prosperity, of the steady valor of the Grecian veterans and continued triumphs of Grecian aims. Lambda is opposed she says by a multitude of foes, but is gallantly "holding her own," in face of them all—we thought from her long silence, that Nu had become defunct, but her secretary assures us that her ranks are still unbroken, and that the Grecian banner still floats over Washington College.

Rho has not yet voted as a body for establishing a chapter at Columbia, S. C., but has consented to the one at Davidson, N. C.

Epsilon is prospering finely, numbering fifteen, and withal as fine a set of fellows as the sun ever shone upon. There is a detachment of alumni Betas in the seminary here who often visit us and enliven our meetings with their jolly remarks.

JOHN M. MURKLAND, HAMPDEN-SIDNEY, TO JAS. H. GARDNER,
OHIO.

HAMPDEN-SIDNEY, VA., March 7, 1858.

We have established the chapter at Davidson, and hope that it will prove a bright particular Star in our glorious constellation. We have also established the chapter at Columbia, S. C., and though you may already have the address of the secretary, I will give it. Lewis W. Perrin, South Carolina College, Columbia, S. Car.

RICHARD C. SIMPSON, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO HUGH BOYD, OHIO.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Mar. 9th, 1858.

It has been but a short time since our chapter was organized and let me now in behalf of Upsilon extend to your chapter the first love of your younger brothers and may it ever continue to be pure and undefiled as that which we believe every true Beta has for every one connected with this association. We believe that if true friendship exists anywhere without the family circle, it is among those whom the golden band of this excellent fraternity encircles. We have received several letters from Brother Coffin

of Eta Chapter, all of which breathed the love of a true brother and made known to us the love and sympathy which the brothers of Eta have for their young brethren of Upsilon. Our chapter was organized on January 31st by Brother Lord of Eta Chapter who introduced us into all the mysteries of this excellent fraternity. Brother Lord said that we should be known by the name of Tau Chapter of South Carolina College, but Brother Perrin, Corresponding Secretary, received a letter the other day from Brother Long of Epsilon Chapter informing us that there was another chapter by the name of Tau which brother Lord was not aware of at the time of our organization, and that he had suggested to the Brethren of Eta Chapter that our name be changed, as there would be two in the family of the same name, which might cause confusion. It has accordingly been changed and now goes by the name of Upsilon Chapter of South Carolina College. We were very much pleased with Brother Lord indeed and think him just what everyone who bears the name and wears the badge of the B Θ II ought to be. The prospects of our chapter are I think very good. I subjoin you a list of the names of our members.

Seniors: L. P. Foster, R. V. Gist, L. W. Perwin, W. C. Wardlaw. Juniors: W. Hane, R. C. Simpson, W. G. Stevenson.
EDMUND R. COCKE, WASHINGTON, VA., TO HUGH BOYD, OHIO.

LEXINGTON, VA., April 8, 1858.

We had quite a "blow up" in College lately. The students burnt two of the professors in effigy and a good many of them were dismissed for it, but the faculty took them nearly all back. None of the Betas were dismissed. Rho is in quite a prosperous condition. She numbers twelve as fine fellows as ever climbed the hill of science, but I am sorry to say that myself and one or two others don't make much at climbing. We have two societies to contend with, viz., the Φ K Ψ and the Ε Δ. Both of which are very small potatoes. We have taken in two men this session both of whom were elected to the Φ K Ψ but declined and joined us. One of them was about to be initiated when we informed him, and he resigned. I suppose you know that our next convention meets the 13th of August next at Berkeley Springs, Virginia. I wish you would mention it to the other chapters when you write, as it is not only very important, but the constitution strictly requires it.

S. WYLIE DODDS, INDIANA, TO EARL CRANSTON, OHIO.

BLOOMINGTON, IND., Apr. 13, 1858.

Yours of the 23rd of February has been received sometime ago, and I am sorry that it has not been answered sooner, but Pi is in about the same "predicament" as Kappa, one of her corresponding secretaries being absent and (what is worse) there is no one appointed in his place, consequently the whole burden of correspondence devolves upon me, so that if this correspondence is a little irregular, it must be attributed to this cause. If all the corresponding secretaries would come up to the requirements in the constitution in this respect, we would have a glorious time all around and a better knowledge of each other's prosperity or misfortune, of each other's joys or sorrows. A well regulated system of correspondence constitutes one of the chief beauties of our order and in proportion as it is neglected, our interest in each other's welfare is taken away and our love for the principles of the Beta Theta Pi suffered to grow cold and languid.

Our chapter is prospering very well, notwithstanding she meets with tremendous opposition both from the barbarians and the society of the Phi Delta Theta, but opposition is just what we like and it gives us delight to cope with the barbarians and semi-barbarians (Phis) whether in our literary societies or in the recitation room, and the more we are successful the more we are opposed and hated by some. But if we have our enemies, we also have our friends. So that victorious and defeated we go on over our rejoicing.

The headquarters of the Phi Delta Theta seems to be here, at least as far as numbers is concerned. Their chapter consists of about twenty-five or thirty members, made up into one conglomerated lump of all sorts of characters from the artful, deceitful Senior down to the petty and most pusillanimous "prep." The most of them drink and nearly all of them carry concealed weapons as far as I am able to learn. But we have nothing to fear from them. Truth and honesty *will* prevail though a multitude be against them. It is true they triumphed at the election of the Senior Class this year, but they accomplished it by cunning trickery and deceit unparalleled in the annals of any college. While our candidate was acknowledged by all to be the best and most meritorious student, not only of his class, but in college,

their candidate whom they elected was a scientific student and of very ordinary talents.

P. S. Our chapter consists of the following fourteen members :

Seniors, N. S. Givan, Manchester, Ind. ; William T. Moffett, Bloomington, Ind. ; Wm. M. Springer, Jacksonville, Ills.

Sophomores, S. W. Dodds, Bloomington ; H. McNeil, Princeton ; John Watts, Santa Fé, N. M. ; J. H. Wilson, Ellettsville.

Freshman, N. Van Horn, Bluffton, Ind.

Law Students, S. G. Burton, Perryville, Ky. ; W. F. Stone, Oskaloosa, Iowa ; T. J. Wolfe, Carlisle, Ind. and N. Burwell, Bluffton, Ind.

Medical Student, S. M. Thomas, Logansport, Ind.

Teacher, A. D. Lynch, Madison, Ind.

D. H. EVANS, MIAMI, TO DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO.

OXFORD, OHIO, April 22, 1858.

The religious excitement that has been prevailing so very extensively throughout the length and width of our whole land did not pass us by unnoticed. We have had quite an excitement. The prayer meetings and the great seriousness among our boys have together kept us from meeting often, and of course our Beta spirits were permitted to grow somewhat cold. And now again we feel like entering upon our duties with rekindled zeal. In regard to establishing a chapter of our order at Marietta, I am of the opinion that our boys will oppose it. However, we have not yet taken a vote upon it. I am for my own part inclined to think that Marietta is well worthy of a chapter.

GEORGE B. CAMPBELL, CUMBERLAND, TO DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO.

LEBANON, TENN., April, 1858.

Your interesting communication of the 28th of March, was brought to us by last Friday's Post. It is scarcely necessary to add that it was intensely interesting. You do not regret more than myself—that an unnatural coldness has heretofore existed between the two sister chapters, Kappa and Mu. You mention

in your letter that some five or six months ago you wrote to Brother Larkin our former recorder. He has been absent the last Collegiate term—roaming through different parts of Texas—which accounts readily for the fact that your letter was unanswered. The “Gauntlet” Kappa has thrown down to Mu, shall not be slighted so long as I retain the doughty position of recorder.

Our chapter has been mighty prosperous this term, through the efforts of the few members who remained we have met with signal success. We have initiated several members since the catalogues were printed—*viz.* :

Andrew B. Martin, Lebanon, Tenn.; Robert L. Caruthers, Lebanon, Tenn.; Holloway Lonsdale, New Orleans; Alfred H. Sharp, Nashville, Tenn.; Joseph L. Cannon, Murfreesboro, Tenn.

There are so many who would gladly become Betas but few are of such materials as a true one should be. We have several under scrutiny and examination. Perhaps we will receive one or two more among us before the end of the term which is in June. Five of our number are in the Senior class and will leave at that time. They are Brown, Robinson, Love, White and your humble servant. In reference to the biennial convention it is our purpose to select some one of our members between this and June to represent us at the convention. It will indeed be a glorious time. I trust each of the chapters will send one delegate, that there may be a full representation is greatly to be wished.

Has Kappa received her supply of the new catalogues? We have only received one. I have written twice to Van Buren Carter (of Centre) to know something about them but have received no tidings. Brother McGaw of Alpha wrote me some time since that it was greatly wished by some of Alpha members to have a chapter established in Nashville. I intended answering him this morning. It is my opinion that it would be best not to have one at that place. The University is on the wane and will scarcely be able to resuscitate very long. However I shall give the consent of Mu. Brother, the “ice is not yet frozen up.” Let me hear from you again at your earliest convenience.

EDWARD B. WRIGHT, WESTERN RESERVE, TO EARL CRANSTON,
OHIO.

HUDSON, O., May 6, 1858.

Have you done anything in regard to a chapter at Marietta? You ought not to let the opportunity slip you. Perhaps some other society will slip in before us. Won't you attend to the matter immediately? It will not take long to get the consent of the majority of the chapters.

Extension must be our cry. We had an enthusiastic meeting the other evening, and took in four new members. We resolved to have an anniversary at the next commencement, to invite the old members back and hope to have a public oration.

Your chapter will of course send a delegate to the convention at Berkeley Springs, Virginia, on the 13th of August next. Every Chapter ought to send a delegate and then as many go in addition as can afford it.

Has anything been written to you about a union with the Psi Upsilon?

We think it would be a glorious thing if it could be brought about satisfactorily to both parties, as that is the best society in the Eastern Colleges, and we here feel the need of Eastern chapters very much. I suppose the subject will be discussed at the convention. Who are the Secretaries of Sigma, Tau and Omicron?

S. WYLIE DODDS, INDIANA, TO EARL CRANSTON, OHIO.

BLOOMINGTON, May 10th, 1858.

Yours of the 18th of April was received a little over two weeks ago and to come up to the good example you have been so kind as to set me, I feel it my pleasure as well as duty to answer you. But all I have to regret is that you did not tell me more particularly of Kappa's condition, prospect, and the number and names of her members and I hope you will next time. By the way have you heard any tidings from our new sister chapter Upsilon?

If so please write us. For by some mischance we have not received an answer from her yet.

I am very happy to report Pi's prospects brightening. We had one of the most glorious triumphs lately imaginable and that too over a chapter of Phis of more than twice our number. It was at a meeting of the students to consider concerning the slander and reports which have lately been going the rounds of the papers of this and adjoining states about our President Dr. Daily and of one communication in particular in the *Bedford Independent* of more than two columns of the most villainous lies. The Phis had the upper hand from the beginning of the meeting, had appointed their own president, secretary and committee to draft resolutions and when the committee presented their report the Betas objected to it as being too voluminous and not expressing the feelings of the students, and therefore moved a substitute of their own. This the Phis violently opposed and for a time the contest ran very high. The barbarians stood aghast and said scarce a word, except "Lo, when Greek meets Greek, then comes the tug of war." But our boys in the end carried their point and came off triumphant. This is the first time we have come into open conflict with the whole body of Phis and before the whole body of students and therefore consider our victory as something of great importance as you will allow, considering that our name our reputation our prowess and our ascendancy over the minds of the students were all involved in the contest.

JAS. P. COFFIN, NORTH CAROLINA, TO EARL CRANSTON, OHIO.

CHAPEL HILL, N. C., May 11, 1858.

You must exercise that forgiving spirit, which is manifest in your letter, in regard to the matter of establishing a chapter at Marietta. Eta, was prompted by no desire to act hurriedly in the matter, but solely by a source of duty to the cause of Betaism. She had been informed by other Chapters that you desire to establish a chapter at that place and from the opinions of those who are near the proposed institution she thought it unfit for a Chapter, and deemed it her boundn duty to deposit her vote in the negative and inform you of the fact even before being officially notified by you that our vote was wanted.

L. P. FOSTER, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO EARL CRANSTON, OHIO.

COLUMBIA, SO. CA., May 20th, 1858.

At a meeting of our chapter a short time since, the following gentlemen were elected to fill our offices. W. C. Wardlaw, President, L. W. Perrin, Recorder, R. C. Simpson, Treasurer, W. J. Stevenson and myself, Corresponding Secretaries. So that the duty of answering your kind and interesting epistle and also of extending Upsilon's best wishes for Kappa's future prosperity devolves upon myself. This duty I would have accomplished sooner, but our list of corresponding secretaries is very imperfect and we have been waiting to have it corrected. Upsilon listened to the contents of your letter and the account of the flourishing condition of Kappa with no other than the most pleasant emotions.

Upsilon is still small and has a great deal of opposition to contend with, as there are four or five other clubs here and they can make by far a more hasty choice in electing members than we can, since they seem only to require intellect and literary attainments, while the Greek addition to these is the character of a gentleman. We have only nine members, but as we all work for Upsilon like true Greeks and as she occupies a front place in our affections, we know we will in a short time be able to increase her numbers and make her superior to opposition. Upsilon is now wearing the usual badge of mourning for Brother Bruce who died a short time since and who was formerly a member of Eta (our mother chapter). It is the first time that we have had to mourn the loss of a brother Beta since we became connected with our glorious association. Ours is a glorious association, just all we could ask for. One in which kindred spirits shut out from the envy and deceit of a cold world may hold continued intercourse. Our constitution though simple and unassuming has for its end a noble purpose. The means by which this union of feeling and sentiment is kept up are very pleasant. All the letters which we have received from sister chapters have been of the most endearing nature, and with much pleasure did our young chapter, listen to the benefits and pleasures of Betaism inspiring her with perfect confidence in every one who "wears the badge and bears the name of Beta Theta Pi."

Our summer vacation commences on the 20th of June and

closes 1st of October. So you must write in time for us to get your letter before we leave here. Four of us graduate in December next. We hate very much to leave Upsilon but the consciousness that we leave it in the hands of those who feel her interest as deeply as we do and who will do all in their power for the advancement of Betaism gives us great satisfaction. But I must close. I send you Upsilon's list of members. L. P. Foster, R. V. Gist. Seniors. L. W. Perrin, W. C. Wardlaw, W. C. Hane. Juniors. W. C. Simpson, W. G. Stevenson. Sophomores. Robert Chatham, F. Weston.

ISAAC CLEMENTS, INDIANA ASBURY, TO EARL CRANSTON, OHIO.

GREENCASTLE, IND., June 6, 1858.

Please don't notice that this letter was written on *Sunday*. In fact I'm excusable for writing on Sunday for I should have written yesterday or the day before at farthest. But on Friday morning about 7 o'clock a company of us went off on a hunting and fishing excursion about twenty miles from town and I didn't get home till yesterday evening late. We have elected Bro. Hester as our delegate to the Convention. I suppose you will be represented. Won't you?

What says Kappa to the contemplated union with the Ψ Y? Delta is opposed to the measure. It can be no benefit to us. One or the other, or both, of us will have to give up our identity and I presume B Θ II will never be willing to give up her motto, or depart from the noble and soul inspiring principles upon which she stands. Yet if a "union" be the contemplated measure this must be done. If it be a mere "Alliance," a treaty offensive and defensive, we cannot be benefited. For where B Θ II is known we need no defence but are fully able to *speck for ourselves on the subject* that concerns our *temporal salvation* especially if it be what involves the loss of our *individuality*. But suppose that each fraternity wanted to locate a chapter at the same institution. What's to be done? If both locate chapters they cannot get along any better than any other secret societies. Psi U's will vote and work for Psi U's and Betas will vote and work for Betas. Thus there would be continual dissension and heart burnings, notwithstanding the all powerful fiat of the delegates in solemn and

deliberate conclave assembled. We must either go into a union and *merge* our *individual identity* or we must form an Alliance such as the one named and you see that won't work.

What good can ever be gained by it? That's the question, *will it pay?* That must be first ascertained in this practical age. If it will pay in what particular? The friends of the move must particularize. We of the West may feel differently from those of the East on the subject. But the fact is *we have no need of it in the West*. It would be impolitic for us to *weigh ourselves down* with this slow dead weight of a few Eastern Colleges while the West exists in the majestic beauty of its broad prairies and deep rolling rivers and its giant forests, with its colleges fast growing into rivalry with the first of the world.

Some secret society *must* hold the power in their hands that must move the colleges. B & H now holds that position. It has been handed down to us from our fathers and shall we not preserve it unimpaired? Their mantles have fallen on us, shall these mantles be trailed in the dust by us? We cannot be benefited by the move. We may be worsted. We care but little for the portion of the country in which the & Y exist. If they have the honor of standing first there let them stand. We don't want to hang on to their coattails that we may get a position. We have enough in the *West*. I didn't intend writing so much about this but I have and shan't take it back. Our college year is out on the 1st day of July.

JOHN M. MURKLAND, HAMPDEN-SIDNEY, TO DAVID H. MOORE,
OHIO.

HAMPDEN-SIDNEY, VA., June 17, 1858.

Though her long silence might almost give you a sufficient excuse for treating Zeta with cool silence, yet let me trust that my excuse will once more restore her to your good graces. Know then, that when I assumed the secretaryship of Zeta it was with the full intention of becoming a model of punctuality, and it has been more my misfortune than my fault, that I have partially failed. I was sick for about a month, and this caused me to be so hurried in my studies for the balance of the session, that I was tempted to let everything *slide*. However let the past be forgotten, and let us try to do better for the future.

One of the professors in Louisville University, Ky., who is a Greek has written to this as the presiding chapter asking us to establish a chapter there. You will please therefore, let us know as soon as possible the opinion of your chapter. All the chapters we have yet heard from give their assent, and I think it will be a very good thing.

You are no doubt aware that the convention meets in August at the Berkeley Springs, Va. It is to be hoped that we shall have a large attendance from every quarter—each chapter is expected to send in a plain and fully written list of all its members since its foundation, with their occupations, residences, time of graduation, if graduated, etc., in order that the new catalogue may be perfect. It is hoped that a delegate, at least, will be present from every chapter, but if you send none, I will forward your list to the convention, if you send it to me.

I am happy to state that Zeta has been unusually flourishing lately, carrying off nearly all the honors at our late commencement. I trust that Kappa is in good health and spirits, I fully assent to the opinions you gave vent to in your last. Quality is a much more essential thing than quantity. Zeta has been particularly careful in that respect, and while other societies here make a greater show in numbers none I believe produce such an impression in point of standing.

S. WYLIE DODD, INDIANA, TO EARL CRANSTON, OHIO.

BLOOMINGTON, IND., June 22, 1858.

We are glad to hear that Kappa is in such flourishing circumstances. Indeed having no opposition she cannot as you say, be ought else. Pi has not only to battle against a host of the oi barbaroi but also a mighty wicked set of fellows calling themselves "Greeks" under the name of $\Phi \Delta \Theta$ that is "friends, brothers" and something else I don't know what, but if it is something good, I suppose that it is perverted as everything else is with them. But verily we have nothing to do with them considering them half civilized barbarians, i. e., semi-barbarians and not as good as Macedonians.

Pi will likely send three delegates to our Biennial Convention which is to convene at Berkeley Springs, on the 13th of next

August. It is to be desired that each chapter be fully represented as some important topics will be discussed and among them the subject of the union with the Psi Upsilon. (I believe that is the right name) of which you have heard ere this. How stands Kappa on that question? Pi has instructed her delegates to vote against it.

GEORGE PAULL, JEFFERSON, to DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO.

CANONSBURG, PA., July 14, 1858.

Long ere this you have sworn in your wrath that all such "recreant Jades" as Gamma have decidedly no claim to your affections. But hear while we plead our cause. We have two secretaries, but seniordom with its accompanying characteristics, viz., indolence and procrastination "so got hold on them" that all idea of duty vanished into nothing. This we hope endeth the last act in Gamma's drama of negligence. We too, as well as our beloved sister Kappa, are glorying in our prosperity. We number nine; two juniors, four sophomores, a freshman, one of the professors and a resident physician. The professor and Juniors we only lately initiated. In the latter, I. L. Sample and B. Stewart, we have a triumph, although not rare in Beta experience yet it is always gratifying to our vanity. They have been here a year, and in the meantime received urgent propositions from three or four other secret societies, but declared themselves in favor of Betaism or neutrality. Stewart is the first honor man in his class and both such as Greeks always are.

Our chapter has appointed me as delegate to the coming convention, and I would be pleased if we could make arrangements to go together. Say for instance you attend our commencement on the 4th of August, and from here we will journey together Berkeleyward stopping a day or two at "my father's cot," as it is on the route. This arrangement would please me exceedingly and I hope it will meet with your approbation. I have also a pressing invitation for you to come, from the Williams family, through whom I feel as if I had known you in days of yore. Our graduating class is large numbering 74 and about 33 commencement appointments. All the senior Greeks have the honor of being among the number. I will expect to hear from you soon, dear brother and favorably too.

THE VIRGINIA CHAPTER TO THE CONVENTION OF 1858.

MARTINSBURG, VA., Aug. 9th, '58.

To the Beta Theta Pi Convention in session at Berkeley Springs,
Brothers,

As you will perceive by the certificate of the president of the Omicron Chapter, which will be handed you by Mr. Robert W. Hunter; I have been appointed a delegate from Omicron Chapter situated at the University of Virginia. It would afford me great pleasure to attend the convention "but business preventing" I must content myself simply with the discharge of my duty in sending you a list of the members with their professions to be inserted in the next catalogue.

Omicron Chapter would ask of the convention the consideration of a proposition to procure a *permanent badge* in addition to the present one to be worn by members after leaving their respective colleges, a *watch key* for instance.

Having been a member of Omicron Chapter for the last three or four years, I can testify to her prosperous condition and her zeal in the cause of "Betaism." Her standard is very high and her members are much respected by their fellow students. We are pleased to report many of them professors of religion and *all scholars and gentlemen*.

I am instructed to request that some of the *new Catalogues* (to be printed) and the records of this present convention, be sent to the University of Virginia during the *next session*.

HOLMES A. CONRAD.

A CIRCULAR LETTER ISSUED UNDER INSTRUCTIONS OF THE CONVENTION OF 1858.

BERKELEY SPRINGS, VA., August 16, 1858.

The Convention of the B Θ Π to the various Chapters, greeting:
Dear Brethren:

For the closer union of kindred hearts and more perfect sympathy between the different Chapters that the same mind may actuate us all and one purpose; we of the Convention think it proper to send you a circular letter which shall show you more fully the mind that it is in us.

We sincerely regret the small number of delegates at the

Convention. Why it is we cannot tell.* But it will be seen immediately that the Convention must have met on the day appointed or the tie which binds the different Chapters in one association would have been lost. We have then, met, though so few in number, and having adjourned from day to day for a reasonable time in order to let other delegates arrive, we have at last proceeded to take such action and to adopt such measures as to our view seem necessary for the healthful working and prosperity of our association.

We beg leave to say a few words in explanation of our action and to call attention to the most important of them.

First in reference to the Constitution. We doubt not all who wear the badge and bear the name of B Θ II will unite in respect for and attachment to our good old Constitution which has so long bound us together and further will be pained as we are at seeing it changed from year to year by every Convention. To this changing we wish to put a stop, and for this purpose have ordered that hereafter when any increased efficiency in the Society is desired or any specific mode of procedure under any section of the Constitution, such efficiency and such specific procedure be effected by the passage of a law and not by amending the Constitution.

It seems strange to us that this has not been done before. We have now no laws known as such. There are, it is true, many resolutions of past Conventions scattered through their minutes, which are of right laws but they are unknown and not obeyed. It has been the custom, it seems, to alter the Constitution for almost every emergency that has arisen.

What but confusion could result (to compare small things with great) if the Constitution of the United States were changed to meet every varying phase of crime, commerce, and government! The Constitution must stand as a whole and remain unchanged if possible while our smaller matters shall be regulated by laws. We have therefore ordered the Secretary of each Convention to collect all the laws passed by that Convention and copy them together at the end of his minutes under the head of "laws" and further that each Chapter copy these into its book of the

* It was afterwards found to be the criminal negligence and carelessness of Zeta Chapter in sending the notices, some for the 13th and some for the 18th of August.

Constitution as being of equal binding authority with the Constitution.

We are so explicit on this because it inaugurates a new policy in the government of our Society. The authoritative resolutions of all past Conventions still in force will also be sent to you. We urge that these also be copied into your book and be obeyed as of right they should be. We hope and expect this measure if adopted and approved by you to effect mightily the order, regularity and exactness of the working of our Society.

We have nevertheless thought it necessary to make two amendments to the Constitution in the form of additions to it.

The first in question is to correct a glaring abuse which has of late crept into our Association. There is evidence before us that Chapters have been established without the knowledge of certain other Chapters of the Association. Any Chapter wishing to establish another Chapter has also, in the face of the Constitution, taken upon itself to submit the matter to the Association instead of having the presiding Chapter to do it. The establishment of new chapters you will readily perceive to be one of the most important and critical moves we are called upon to make and should never be made without the utmost caution. To insure this caution we have adopted the amendment referred to. We mean to give no more power to the Presiding Chapter but only by this indirect way of establishing new Chapters to necessitate greater slowness and, in this way, prudence.

We understand the mode of establishing a new Chapter under the amendment to be for the chapter moving in the matter to present first the subject to the Presiding Chapter, which must then ascertain directly from each Chapter its assent or dissent and it then may proceed to set the new Chapter in motion itself, or, if more convenient, commission some other Chapter to do it. But the Constitution is to be furnished from the Presiding Chapter to insure the correctness of the copy.

The other amendment provides names indefinitely for new Chapters and also obviates a ground of discontent resulting from the old Chapters having to give up their old and endeared names and be moved up the roll when another chapter is declared defunct. By this new measure too the "priority of the chapters" is shown, a thing made essential by Constitution. Moreover, the

plan we have adopted appears to us to be the only which will unite these two desirable features.

The report on the catalogue needs no explanation.

One law passed by the Convention deserves particular attention *vis.*: that making members after having left College answerable immediately to the Convention. The object of this is to enable the society to get rid of any dishonorable members whom their respective Chapters fail to discipline either through unwillingness or ignorance. On this the Convention was much divided and you will find the law accompanied by a protest. A part of the Convention considered this subversive of the object of the general Convention as well as against the letter of the Constitution.

The Convention most earnestly desires all the Chapters to consider this matter calmly and fully on both sides and that they do not fail to send in their approval or disapproval of it to the Presiding Chapter before the four months' limitation shall have expired which will be on November 16th, 1858.

The question of union with the Psi Upsilon did not come before us. No proposition of union had been made by them and as a former effort at such union failed, we could not with self respect propose it again.

Thus our acts are before you to be sustained or revoked as you may see fit. Only we urge upon all a more faithful obedience to our excellent Constitution, more caution in establishing Chapters and above all more and more care and prudence in admitting members. Here the welfare of our beloved Society especially depends. Make sound morality first and indispensable requisites; then social and mental qualities. Let all things be done decently and in order, and let our meetings be especially for our mental and moral improvement.

Let us perform our whole duty to man and to God. Then will the same blessing of Divine Providence that has attended us for nineteen years continue with us and cause us to rejoice nor shall we "ever be made ashamed."

May the God of Peace be with us all,

In behalf of the Committee,

HENRY W. BALLANTINE.

F. C. WILSON, WASHINGTON, VA., TO DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO.

LEXINGTON, VA., August 30, 1858.

I am the only member of our chapter in town now. One of the last year's graduates left this morning. With his help I have made up a list of the members of our chapter of which I will send you. We had to make it from memory as our recorder has the books with him. Our session does not begin for nine or ten days yet. I thought Brother Pendleton would have written to you long ago as he has been in office two months of last session. I have seen two of three Betas who had been to Berkeley Springs, Hooper, the orator of the occasion was here yesterday and preached a first rate sermon. He went up to Berkeley on the 18th thinking that to be the day but found the convention had adjourned. I have heard of a good many who went there at different times. That was the reason it was so poorly attended. I have not seen the minutes but I don't suppose that so small a number as thirteen could have brought up all the business interesting all the different chapters. I think it would be well to call a convention next summer and arrange certain matters especially the correspondence. We ought to have some regular system or order of electing the Secretaries. I gave our delegate some suggestions of my own about it hoping in that way to bring the matter before the convention.

F. C. WILSON, WASHINGTON, VA., TO HUGH BOYD, OHIO.

LEXINGTON, VA., September 22, 1858.

I was very sorry that the attendance on the convention was worse even than I had heard. The reason that our chapter was not represented was that our delegate was detained at home by the death of his sister. His alternate was also attending to his school business. The delegates from Hampden-Sidney went up there thinking that the Convention met on the 18th. Hooper, the orator of the occasion passed through here on his way back.

JOHN H. WILSON, INDIANA, TO HUGH BOYD, OHIO.

BLOOMINGTON, IND., September 30th, 1858.

I am entering upon the duties of Corresponding Secretary of

Pi. I find two letters from Kappa unanswered. One from Brother Moore, dated August 22nd, requesting a list of the members belonging to our Chapter, for the new catalogue. The other from yourself dated September 18th, containing much information and asking some inquiries.

Both of these I now propose to answer. As for the first which by the way should have been attended to long ago, you will find a complete list of the names, occupations and residences of our members, together with the year of their initiation. This I suppose is all that is necessary. I may perhaps be too late but under the circumstances we could not do better. The letter of inquiry arrived during vacation when the Corresponding Secretary was absent, and it so remained until the session was opened. The list was furnished to our delegate H. W. Ballatine, and it was expected that he would put it into the proper hands, and he may perhaps have done this.

The prospects of Pi at this time are moderately good. Our numbers are small but we look to quality rather than quantity. There were seven present at our meeting last Tuesday. These are all who are here except Professor Kirkwood, and Dr. Daily who seldom meet with us. Three Juniors and one Sophomore are the sum total in College. The rest are men in Town. We have some material under inspection. Whether it will stand the test or not we cannot tell. Men of good moral character, high standing in their classes, and sufficient "goaheadness" to make their mark in the world, are not to be met with every day. With us or at least with some of us, class standing is regarded as a surer test of merit than the ability to make long winded speeches in a literary Society.

We have one Secret Society the Phi Delta Theta, to contend with. They outnumber us at present. Most of the members are such as we have no use for, but they have a few who are good fellows, though sadly led astray.

E. B. CROW, CUMBERLAND, TO DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO.

LEBANON, TENN., October 1, 1858.

This is the first letter I have had the pleasure of addressing you since I came into office which was some months since. I

would certainly have done so before, but not knowing Kappa's Corresponding Secretary I have had to delay till I could hear from some of the other chapters who he might be, which information I derived from Brother Clements of Indiana. My predecessor left me no list, so you may judge at what a loss I am to know where and to whom to direct my Beta letters, for I am desirous of carrying on an entire and active correspondence.

Brother Clements also informed me that it was entrusted to your chapter to get out the new catalogues, and I have since learned from Brother Caruthers, our last delegate, that you were to send on a copy of the Minutes of the Biennial Convention, and that it would devolve upon me to circulate them. If such is the case, send them on immediately, as we desire to attend to that matter immediately. Betaism is unquestionably flourishing, but the business of the entire association is not carried on as promptly as it should be. This office of Corresponding Secretary is after all the most important and laborious position in the whole Society. If our delegate had been more of a business man than he was, I certainly should have had a perfect list of correspondents and would have been able to send you a list of the members of Mu Chapter ere this. Even now I will have to delay perhaps till we meet again before I can send you an accurate list; however, look for one soon. Mu is flourishing. We have not however, taken in more than one member this session being exceedingly choice. Several clever talented boys, are now under scrutiny, and will be voted on soon. We number thirteen. One of the Professors here is a Beta but owing to some other business on the night we meet, he never attends, he is the most popular member of the faculty and is State geologist of Tennessee.

JOHN L. FRENCH, WABASH, TO DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO.

CRAWFORDSVILLE, IND., October 9, 1858.

You will please excuse the delay in answering your request for a catalogue of our members. Your letter reached here through Brother Elston, during vacation and I could not answer it until I returned to college, which I did only this week. I hope the delay may not make our list too late for publication in the catalogues.

Please send me three catalogues as soon as they are out.

The following is a list of our membership: W. M. Dickey, New Washington, Ind.; J. L. French, Jacksonville, Ind.; O. A. Hills, Crawfordsville, Ind.; E. R. Lewis, Madison, Ind.; W. C. Porter, Wilmington, Ill.; J. D. Rabb, Carrollton, Ky.; Geo. W. Richardson, Madison, Ind.; M. B. Shipp, Edinburgh, Ind.; W. J. Twining, Crawfordsville, Ind.; Sam C. Vance, Indianapolis, Ind.

A. EDWARDS WELCH, MICHIGAN, TO DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO.

ANN ARBOR, MICH., October 14, 1858.

Allow me to make my best bow, and to introduce myself as one of the Corresponding Secretaries of Lambda. Through the kindness of D. M. Johnson our representative at the Convention I have received your name as Corresponding Secretary of Kappa. My main reason for writing to you so soon is this: Rev. B. F. Crary, of Delta Chapter has lately been inaugurated President of Hamline University, an Institution at Red Wing, Minnesota, where I reside. I do not know whether Delta Chapter has been informed of this fact and so thought I would write to you in order that if possible his name might appear as above.

You have no doubt heard before this that Albert G. Porter, of Delta Chapter has been elected a member of Congress. Lambda is all right, a glorious prospect is opening before her. The opposition here is tremendous but we can bear it all and more. We have already rescued from the jaws of the Alpha Delta's and Delta Kappa Epsilon's two noble men and have a number of others in tow. One of our men had received pressing invitations from three Societies the two above named and the Zeta Psi's. The Alpha Deltas at present have the advantage of us as to the Professors, they having four to our one, but we are just setting on foot a project for making amends for this deficiency, one which cannot but succeed, and allow me to remark, one which will knock everything else here higher than Gilderoy's Kite. We have just engaged a new hall 60 x 40 ft, and are going to fit it up in magnificent style.

I wish you would give me the name of the Corresponding Secretary of Omicron Chapter, if you have learned what it is.

A. E. WELCH, MICHIGAN, TO HUGH BOYD, OHIO.

ANN ARBOR, MICH., Nov. 1st, 1858.

I have not succeeded in obtaining any information of your friends of the O M Σ . Accordingly we have come to the conclusion that they must be a one-horse Society, and not capable of offering any honorable opposition to our Kappa Brothers. Our Chapter is anxious to get the consent of the other chapters to establishing a chapter at the Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N. Y. This institution is rapidly becoming renowned in both Europe and America for the good standing of its graduates. There are, at present, no Societies there, and it will be for our interest to establish a chapter there before any other Society. One of our Professors, who will be a Beta in a few days (the first fruits, by the way of that drive which I mentioned in my letter) is going down to Troy before long, so that if we obtain the consent of the Chapters, we can send a copy of the constitution down by him, and get him to initiate some of them. He is anxious that we should establish a chapter there, and says that he is acquainted with a number of students of the right stamp to carry it on with success.

We have just initiated J. Duane Doty, Principal of the Union High School, Dexter, Mich., and would like to have his name inserted in the catalogue, if it is not too late, at the head of those for 1858. I will subjoin to this letter the names of our freshmen. The Delta Kappa Epsilon of this college have been sorely vexed by the desertion of one of their members Hamilton J. Dennis. He was undoubtedly, the most talented member that they have ever had in this institution. He graduated here last year and delivered a poem before their convention last vacation. He was the boast of the whole Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, but, as might be expected, becoming disgusted with the company which he was in, he left them and now wears the Chi Psi badge much to the chagrin of his old associates.

JAMES TAYLOR, MIAMI TO DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO.

NEWPORT, KY., Nov. 4, 1858.

I have just received your letter of inquiry concerning the

plate, and hasten to reply. I yesterday made all inquiries at the engravers in Cincinnati, and had the pleasure to find that it was in fine order. When our plates were struck for the last catalogue at the suggestion of our engraver, we confided the plate to him, as we were informed that unless it was waxed and properly taken care of, it would rust and be valueless. They have used every precaution with it, I understand, and they are ready to strike the engravings for us, whenever desired. I would advise you to let them attend to it, as they have been at the trouble of preserving it, the plate for us, and unless they had done so in all probability it would have been injured besides they will preserve it for us all the time, and we will only have to send them an order and we will be supplied, and cheaper by them than anyone else, on account of their having done our engraving. Middleton Wallace & Co., are the engravers, you can either send the order yourself, or I can attend to it for you whenever the society may be inclined to issue a new catalogue. In addition, I would suggest that for your chapter, Cincinnati would be the best place to print the catalogue, as you could get the plates and have them placed in the catalogue without transporting them to another place.

RANDOLPH H. BLAIN, WASHINGTON, VA., TO JOHN D. MCCLINTOCK, HANOVER.

WASHINGTON COLLEGE, VA., November 6th, 1858.

It has become my very pleasant duty to carry on the correspondence between Rho and the sister chapters as high up as Mu. I do not know whether it falls to my lot or yours to open the correspondence for session of 1858, but I reckon it makes but little difference as we are both Betas and therefore must not stand on ceremony. I have found it a very difficult matter in taking the most highly acceptable office of corresponding secretary of Rho to get a proper list or, I may say, any list at all as my predecessor, Brother Pendleton, had the deplorable misfortune of losing his list and has thus left me all in the dark not knowing whether I am addressing myself to a brother in or out of college. I am afraid that that predecessor of mine (with all due reference to his reverence) could not have hurt himself much writing to the chapters on his list. But I reckon that I had better not be dis-

coursing too largely at the beginning of my own term on whether Brother P., faithfully discharged his duty or not for in the course of time the adage might be applied to me," a rogue to catch a rogue" as it has always been a matter of conscience with me never to bore a fellow with two letters to his one. So recollect that my brother in your intercourse with me.

Rho is now in a very flourishing condition although there are but five of us to keep up the reputation of Betaism. Well I reckon we can do it considering that we are all very fine looking fellows, with many other personal attractions, such as eating a heap, etc. We have not taken in any new members this session and I think from present appearances we are not likely to. The materials fit for Greeks to work on are scarce and far between and it does not do for us when we see other secret societies jumping at Tom, Dick and Harry. Our motto is to be slow in choosing Greeks but swift friends when chosen.

EDWARD B. CROWE, CUMBERLAND, TO DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO.

LEBANON, TENN., Nov. 9, 1858.

I have just made out for you a list of the members of Mu and as it is my duty to send to each chapter a list of our present members I will just mark with a cross those who now attend our meetings. As to the occupation of our former members, some are lawyers, doctors, dentists, &c., most of them professional men, but not of sufficient importance to be mentioned in the catalogue. Mu prospers, and though times are dull in Lebanon we meet together frequently and have gay times. Our election for orators for the junior exhibition came off yesterday. J. J. Everett and myself were chosen as orators and one Yarply whom I proposed two weeks ago. Three Alpha Delta Phis made out the number of six orators. It is "pull Dick, pull Devil" here between the Betas and Alphas.

D. HARVEY SLOAN, WASHINGTON, PA., TO HUGH BOYD, OHIO.

WASHINGTON, PA., November 9, 1858.

Our Session has opened very nicely. We are passing on quite smoothly thus far. Among the new students we are try-

ing to find some whose visage denotes them to be in spirit Greeks. Unless such can be found success in getting men would mean nothing but the most miserable failure. The Phi Psis still keep "bobbing around," making a display of their pins, some of them, I should think on a rather poor background. The glory of the Deltas has been for sometime on the wane. The Delta Phis are but in their incipient state as yet.

J. H. WILSON, INDIANA, TO HUGH BOYD, OHIO.

BLOOMINGTON, IND., Nov. 13th, 1858.

At the general Convention of the Beta Theta Pi, H. W. Ballentine was appointed on a committee to prepare a circular letter to the various Chapters of the Association. He undertook for Pi that she would copy and circulate a letter. We received it a short time ago and in the fulfillment of the promise of our delegate we have been sending them to the different Chapters as fast as we can, but owing to the late day at which it came to hand I fear it will do but little good as it is now a few days until the expiration of the four months' limitation which is allowed for the Chapters to express assent or dissent from the action of Convention.

The circular is intended to accompany the minutes and both should have been before the different Chapters two months ago but from the time the letter reached us we could do no better. The minutes we have not received. Can you tell me anything about them? To whom were they intrusted? Whose business is it to distribute them. If they can be "resurrected" we would like to hear from them.

As far as can be learned from the circular we are well pleased with the measures adopted by the Convention; except the law making members after leaving College answerable immediately to the general Convention. Of this law Pi disapproves and has sent her objections to the Presiding Chapter, Eta. We consider it as subversive of the design of the general Convention and likely to change our hitherto pleasant meetings, where we come together as brethren and part with the bonds of union more closely binding us together, to the scene of fierce Contentions and bitter heart burning strifes. Moreover we hold that each Chapter is a better judge of the merits and demerits of its

own members than the Convention can be. For these reasons we object to this law, and respectfully ask the Chapters to consider carefully before they approve of it.

We have initiated two members since I wrote you. We are thankful for the list of correspondents which you sent us. Phi is situated at Davidson College, N. C. The corresponding Secretary is A. L. McLaughlin, the others I do not know. The explanation of the two letters you received is easy. Pi has two Corresponding Secretaries H. C. McNeil is one, your humble servant is the other.

SAMUEL M. LUCKETT, CENTRE, TO HUGH BOYD, OHIO.

DANVILLE, KY., November 20, 1858.

We were all glad to hear that your chapter was getting on so finely. It warms us up in the cause to hear of the "onward march of our brothers Betas." We have one of the fine chapters too. We are in as thrifty a condition as we could desire. We have eleven members now and several other noble fellows before the chapter. The Phis are about as numerous as we are but they are not made of the right kind of stuff. Old Centre College is in a flourishing condition. We had about fifty or sixty new students at the beginning of the session. I am much obliged to you for wishing me such a good time at Harrodsburg during vacation. I had one of the best times you could imagine. My duck lives there and of course I could have no other kind. I didn't go to see the girls at all but I went to see the girl quite often. All Betas are men of good taste.

WILLIAM B. COOK, JEFFERSON, TO JOHN DAVID MCCLINTOCK,
HANOVER.

CANONSBURG, PA., Nov. 27th, 1858.

At your request I resume my seat to write you a short epistle. Your letter of the 3d was received and perused with interest. We were indeed sorry to hear that Iota had fizzled out and also to hear of your misfortune in getting hurt. All we can do for you now is to sympathize with you in your troubles. If we had you here we could nurse you and soon restore you to health again. I hope Iota will soon revive again. In the present state

of affairs at Hanover College, I suppose it would be impossible to keep up this chapter. Hanover College certainly will revive before long for it is not possible for a college of her advantage to remain in the condition in which she is. We have several Hanover students here, some pretty shrewd fellows, too, but unfortunately none of them are Betas. You need not be the least alarmed about Edie joining our society. He has been "sucking" around us ever since he came here telling us that he was not opposed to secret societies and was not a member of any society, etc., etc. I fear Edie will never be a Beta. Sickells, a Hanover student, has joined the Deltas. We have taken in two members out of eighty-eight students who entered here this session and proposed to two others, one of whom we will probably get. Prof. Linn, one of our members, was married last week. The students serenaded him two nights in succession. He will bring his wife here next spring. Dr. Weaver, another of our members died a few weeks since with hemorrhage of the lungs and we miss him sadly at our meetings. He was always ready to give us any information regarding Betaism we could ask. He was a noble Greek. As I have several letters to write tonight I will have to draw this to a close hoping that your wounds are healed and that you are enjoying good health.

DAVID W. TODD, MIAMI, TO DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO.

OXFORD, O., November 30, 1858.

I am unable to give you all the Greek words used in our catalog, nor can I explain the simple and double stars, nor tell the cost of the catalogs last published. I know the meaning of the Greek letters or at least the greater part of them but cannot give but a few of the words.

I will write to Brother Rogers tomorrow and get a list of the words and have the stars explained and learn the cost of publishing our present catalogue. Brother Rogers was Chairman of the committee in publishing catalogs and I understand knows all about these matters and affairs. As soon as we hear from him will write you again. The number published was one thousand. The engraving cost one hundred and fifty dollars (cheap at that).

EDWARD B. CROWE, CUMBERLAND, TO DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO.

LEBANON, TENN., December 7, 1858.

Yours of the 29th ult., is before me. Also I received not very long since a copy of the minutes directed to Brother N. J. Lane and shortly after another copy to my own address for all of which you have the warmest thanks of a Beta's heart.

Your last letter was a valuable one, and one that must have cost you no little trouble. You seem to be the most punctual business man of any of my brother corresponding secretaries, and moreover an accommodating one. Punctuality and system are in my eyes two of the most admirable traits in any man's character, because they are invariably backed by good hard sense, and are the main instruments of success in any occupation. Why brother it is a pleasure to do anything for you. You ask for a second list of members. I shall with no preventing Providence send you another on Saturday next. I would do so today but I must wait till we have another meeting in order to get them. Your letter came on Saturday and that was a day after the feast, besides it is probable we shall have an addition to our number in the person of Mr. George Seay, quite an aspiring Sophomore, so aspiring that it is probable that he will so far outstrip his class as to be able to join our class, that is the Junior, in February. He is now partly a Junior. The minutes are not being circulated as rapidly as I could wish, but Mu's members are not all so fond of the pen as they might be and this accounts for it. I shall stir them up and have them all done at the earliest dates. We shall not send you any.

Mu chapter still flourishes and will doubtless do her duty in all things. I wish I could assist you in making out the catalogues. It must be laborious. However, all I can do is to wish you fine success.

GEORGE MATHER, OHIO WESLEYAN, TO DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO.

DELAWARE, OHIO, December 6, 1858.

A few minutes ago, I received an exceedingly discouraging letter from Eta at Chapel Hill, N. C. Brother Croom says that they have only three members left, and have to give up being the

Presiding chapter. We come next, but I would be sorry for Eta to give up, for she struggles gloriously. Enclosed you will find Croom's list of additions and deaths since the last catalogue. Croom wishes us to take our place as Presiding Chapter. I have not seen our members, but will soon. If you can write Eta, tell her to hold on if she can. Never die.

ALAN T. BRINSMADE, WESTERN RESERVE, TO HUGH BOYD, OHIO.

HUDSON, O., December 13, 1858.

Brother Wright handed me a letter a day or two since from you, and as I am his successor, I will endeavor to answer it though at present my time is limited. We have not as yet received the minutes of last convention, but we live in hopes of receiving them at some future day. I suppose that Brother Wright has sent you a list of our members. I forward you another which I believe is correct. I have, as you will observe, simply put down their occupations. You of course can arrange the initials. I am very glad that you sent us a list of corresponding secretaries as ours is incomplete. The corresponding secretaries of Beta are, for the first half of the chapters, A. T. Brinsmade; for the second half, Henry M. Newton. Supposing since you are headquarters at present of Betaism that you keep a list of corresponding secretaries. I will let you know of all changes that occur here and elsewhere when I learn. W. H. Gibbs, formerly a Beta of Sigma Chapter, graduated some two years since. I see that you have his name down as corresponding secretary. McConnel is still alive and a good fellow too. I suppose of course, you will send us a proof sheet. Where is the next convention. You say perhaps we have been overpowered by the enemy. I reply "not any overpowered." We have thirteen as good fellows as ever trod shoe leather. Betaism is bound to always take the lead in this college, Alpha Delta Phi to the contrary notwithstanding.

ALEXANDER W. WEDDELL, HAMPDEN-SIDNEY TO THE OHIO CHAPTER, 1858.

List of members who joined Eta Chapter, since the publication of the last catalogue:

1855—L. C. Benbury, Edentown, N. C.; Joseph Williams, Yadkin Co., N. C.; William W. Sillers, Sampson Co., N. C.; Thos. S. Singeltary, Pitt Co., N. C.; Joseph A. Williams, Pitt Co., N. C.

1856—Solomon W. Alston, Warren Co., N. C.; James P. Coffin, Knoxville, Tenn.; C. S. Croom, Florida.

1857—R. P. Howell, Goldsboro, N. C.; W. C. Y. Parker, Hertford Co., N. C.; Jas. T. Morehead, Greensboro, N. C.

1858—Jas. E. Beasley, Plymouth, N. C.; Eli S. Shorter, Columbus, Ga.

Died since publication of last catalogue, James Bruce, Va., and Coleman Sessions, La. All the above were students.

A. L. FRENCH, WABASH, TO HUGH BOYD, OHIO.

CRAWFORDSVILLE, IND., December 16th, 1858.

I received yours of the 23rd ult. stating that my second list had been received and was all right, not however until after I had sent a third list in response to a very dictatorial and rough demand of your associate Corresponding Secretary.

I should have written to him such an answer as his discourteous letter deserved, but I concluded that he perhaps knows no better, and so I just passed the thing over by sending him a new list, and saying nothing about his manner. Had I known then that my second list was in your hands, I should have written differently, and reminded him that while he was scoring me for a supposed dereliction of duty, it would be well for him to first perform all of his own. But I supposed our second list had miscarried, and I therefore made that a palliation in the case. But enough of this, just give him my blessing yourself, and charge me for the service rendered.

Thanks for the key to professions, etc., which you sent me, and as you proposed sending us a complete list of Corresponding Secretaries, if we have not one, I will say that we have no such list, and we will be under lasting obligation to you if you will send us one. Please give the names of the colleges where the chapters are, as well as the post office addresses. Our correspondence has for some time been rather irregular and indeed there are chapters with which we have never had a correspon-

dence. I received our first communication from Sigma Chapter at Jacksonville, Ill., a few days ago. It was mainly Jeremiad over the derangement in the operation of the Society as a whole during the past year, and he doubtless has good reasons for such a lamentation. He says, that until yesterday, Sigma was not aware of Tau's existence, or the founding of any chapter below itself, whereas the list now extends to Upsilon. He further says that Sigma feels very much grieved and insulted at this slight put upon her. It seems he is not yet aware of the full extent of the slight, for I believe the list extends to Phi now, and for aught I know further still. I can enter a similar complaint on the part of Tau for she has never in any instance been consulted in the formation of any chapters younger than herself. I do not make this statement as a complaint to you, for the blame rests with the presiding chapter, I suppose, but I wish to ask if you will not second us in trying to correct such infringements of our constitution in the future.

We have not yet received the proceedings of the convention at Berkeley Springs. All we have heard from it is a circular letter sent us recently by Henry W. Ballantine of Bloomington, Ind. The circular letter was accompanied by no square, triangular, or any other shaped letter telling us when or whence we might expect the minutes of the convention.

THOS. H. ROGERS, MIAMI, TO DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO.

OXFORD, O., December 23, 1858.

I am an "Old Beta" as we call them here and very improperly so for a Beta should and many I trust do, never grow old in Betaism, but renew their strength and youth continually.

I have been told by our members here that I must write to you to give you some of my corrections for the Beta Catalogue. I have become acquainted since and before leaving College with many noble brothers. And from time to time as I have seen mistakes in the catalogue, I have noted them. We published in some haste and made many blunders, and some things right then are wrong now because of changes.

I have made corrections chiefly in Alpha Chapter, and in the defunct chapters. The living can help themselves, And in Alpha,

I have not changed from the old Catalogues all that need change for George Style has sent you some corrections. He tells me to send these that I know in addition to those he sent and where (as in one or two cases) there is a conflict between his list and mine, you are to follow this as the latest edition.

Eta prime chapter (now living at Bloomington and new named as well as new born) had many members we knew not of when we published the old catalogue. We did not have a complete list and from old letters to our chapter, I afterward found several other persons belonged. One of these I remember was Wm. A. P. Martin, the rest I have a list of in my catalogue at Monroe and I will send you. Perhaps, the chapter has lost its old records and does not know of these members. I will send you the names and make sure that you get them. I have not my copy of the catalogue here and will find in it some corrections that I do not now remember. These I will send to you in the catalogue with corrections that I send you. I have placed, sometimes names, at the beginning of chapters as Zeta prima Beta, Theta, prime, etc. The reason is this: These persons were the founders of the chapters, and because they come from other chapters their names were in some cases, not put down in the second chapter they belonged to. Wm. M. Scott, D.D., of Cincinnati for instance, first joined Gamma; then he went to Princeton a while and founded Theta Prime. Then he went to Danville as a Professor and became connected with Epsilon. His name should be in each chapter. The date showing when he first joined. This will make some dead chapters look longer and better it will make some worthy names show better and give the catalogue a finer show.

In some cases, I have given the year of the death. This ought to be known for all and if there is time to get them for this catalogue, it would be well. The years could be put down by Greek Letters like the year of joining, the first year of the Society being "A," the second "B," etc. This however, would not do for those who will die more than twenty-four years after 1839. This plan would only work for this catalogue. The way which we must do in the future some time will be to have between the list of each chapter and the index, a list of the dead with an appropriate small engraving. There are not enough dead now to make such a list. The method that I have mentioned would set

the chapters to work to collect information for such a list whenever it is made. Thus, in the next catalogue in Alpha Chapter, you could have Brother Dubois' name thus.

John T. Dubois iE Warren Co., Ohio.

He died in the eleventh year of the Society. This could be indicated by a *. I merely offer this plan for your consideration. We must some time have the list of the dead separate and a nice engraving before it. It will be a good way to do honor to the dead.

I know that we shall see by the spring a noble catalogue doing credit to the Society. It will be a good thing to create interest among some of our members and chapters which are cold in the cause. It will introduce to many a brother some friend in the faith whom he had not else known and I hope that an impulse will thus be given to Society.

D. HARVEY SLOAN, WASHINGTON, PA., TO HUGH BOYD, OHIO.

WASHINGTON, PA., January 25, 1859.

Brother Boyd I imagine almost while I read your letter that I can see you, and the inference is irresistibly forced on me that you are one of the best fellows that has ever been blessed with eye sight and a place among the worthy sons of that best of mothers, Beta Theta Pi. I may be mistaken of course, but I don't for one moment think I am. No flattery mind you in what I say. You hate that kind of thing just as much as I do. I was told by a young lady not long since however that she had learned the art of flattery from me. I feel certain she must be mistaken. But enough of this wandering kind of style. Nu has on the whole rather a good account to give of herself. The highest degree of harmony prevails. Her hopes are good, and her sons bless their stars that as they think they have reason to cherish a lawful pride in our hitherto matchless order. What she has been may she always be, only more so. Our number is not very large. We never increase it unless we can do so judiciously. When Brother G. W. Birch left us and went to the Seminary at Allegheny, we were but four. We have however added two to our list this session, Dan. D. Johnson, of Steubenville, Ohio, and James M. Maxwell of Panhandle, Va.

By the way too if the catalogues are not gone to print just add these names to our list of members, will you please? We have under consideration one or two more whom we may ere long place in the bonds of lasting union. I can hardly tell you how much I am obliged to you for your list of secretaries. It was just the thing I needed and it afforded us the means of supplying some of the other chapters who were in like needy circumstances. You speak of writing with "Dave Moore" at your elbow. It must be a privilege to be in such close proximity to such a good fellow. I have in one way and another been led to form a very high opinion of Brother Moore. In the language of some brother correspondent—"long may he wave." The cars have just come in from Wheeling the engine is squalling and snorting at the depot and the boys are all running off to await the opening of the post-office. Perhaps Uncle Sam may have somewhat to say to some of them concerning their *lady loves*. I feel like going too—not from any *lady love* motives however tonight. Frank Birch is awaiting me to go with him to his room as I must go there before I mail my letter. "The clock tolls eight times on the wing, stars wink and sing" and as I look out of my windows from the calm quiet that surrounds me I cannot but add "Hail silent night"; I was really sorry that you had difficulty in getting my last letter. I can't account for the non presence of the "usual three cents."

FRANK H. OWEN, CUMBERLAND, TO THOMAS E. CRUTCHER,
INDIANA ASBURY.

February 8, 1859.

The Mu chapter has appointed me assistant corresponding secretary, a position which I by no means relish. But as it is for the good of the glorious cause of Betaism I shall do my part carefully. Though I must confess that writing letters don't agree with me by any means. I must offer you condolence inasmuch as it is your misfortune not to be answered by Brother Dudley. But a truce to apology, I have been a member of the Betas only for a short time, having only last fall left my Mamma's apron string. But long enough to love them all like brothers. Our chapter in this place is composed of as fine a set of Greeks as you can find anywhere. Our members are not large for the simple reason that

we, like all other Beta chapters, don't take in everybody indiscriminately which cannot be said for those pseudo Greek chapters with which this place abounds. The Tau Eta Phi especially seem to be determined to make up in quantity what they want in quality. The weather is at this time what Brother Vassar would term, devilishly hot, a circumstance which has enhanced the sale of our old toll gate keeper's lager, lemonade, ice cream and all the "et cetera" whose intention and effects are to cool the inner man. Our Professor of Mathematics gravely announced a few weeks ago that he was going to leave us for the remainder of the session and for the rest of the day the town resounded with the "Te Deums" of the (in imagination) emancipated Sophs. But alas, the morning came and cruelly nipt in the bud all our promised joys, he had changed his notion. So with propriety I may say with the poet "'Twas ever thus from childhood's hour. I've seen my fondest hope decay." Write soon, if Brother Dudley don't answer you I will. But I fear that will be but little inducement to you. Mu sends her united love to all.

ALEX. Q. HOLLADAY, VIRGINIA, TO HUGH BOYD, OHIO.

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA., April 20, 1859.

We have been shamefully remiss in sending you the amount due for catalogues and I am very sorry for it, but am somewhat excusable as I have been sick a good portion of the time, and have tried in vain to get hold of the members and remit it. It shall be sent you next week if possible. Please let me know, so I may inform the society how many catalogues come to us, and also what is the whole number printed, as well as the total cost. While I am writing it may be as well to say that as very few of us will be certainly back here, next session, you all had better direct letters to George Gilmer, Charlottesville, Va. (not University of Va.), till you hear who the corresponding secretary is. On reviewing the matter we too think there is no great use of a convention the coming summer. We of Omicron agree with you in thinking it almost absurd to refuse to give up the presidency to Theta. Of course it belongs to her until the next convention, and we all ought to write and tell Zeta that it does not look well for her to assert the claim, though, I feel sure she does it in perfect good faith.

STANHOPE P. BRECKINRIDGE, CENTRE, TO HUGH BOYD, OHIO.

DANVILLE, KY., April 23, 1859.

We find on examination that owing to a mistake our assessment for the expense of catalogues is too much. At least, it seems so, with our present information. The mistake alluded to appears to have originated in this way. In answer to your request to send on the names composing our chapter, a list of thirty names was forwarded in which were included the names of fifteen Theological Students, who have ceased all connection with college and do not constitute a part of the chapter, only attending the meetings of the chapters rarely, and then simply, because, being in the same town in which our meetings are held, it is convenient to come. These fifteen Theologues being excluded, as of course they ought to be, we have left the fifteen college students constituting the chapter proper. You receiving this erroneous list, computed the tax as for thirty members, and sent the account on, which we paid, not perceiving our mistake till afterward. Thus, you see each member of our chapter paid double his due quota, the chapter paying as if consisting of thirty, whereas it only has fifteen members. Each regular proper member, paid for himself and a Theologue to boot.

These Seminary students were not called upon to pay anything (as they are no longer in college) and consequently did not, except as each one's pure generosity may have prompted him. Thus, you see the whole case as it seems to us. Pray, have the matter examined by the chapter, and if our view is just, and there is an error anywhere as there seems to be, we feel confident it will be rectified. It is due to say the mistake originated with ourselves, and that you could not have done otherwise, than you did.

You wrote that the catalogues would soon be out and consequently I have been looking out for them almost daily for some time. The labors of your chapter have been arduous, I have no doubt, and we sympathize with you in the harrassing care with which the work must be attended. We will be glad for your sakes when it will be concluded.

S. P. BRECKINRIDGE, CENTRE, TO HUGH BOYD, OHIO.

DANVILLE, KY., April 30, 1859.

Yours in answer to our communication in regard to the mis-

take in the assessment for catalogues, was promptly received. We have come to the conclusion in relation to the matter that the trouble which it would require to rectify the mistake, would not be compensated for by the amount when obtained. The error of course would have to be apportioned among the other chapters, since certainly no one chapter, should bear it. Accordingly we dismiss the whole matter without any further words or trouble. Be assured that we attribute all blame to ourselves, and freely discharge and entirely exonerate you. Pray, give yourself no further trouble in case.

When will the catalogues be furnished? Some time ago, we heard that they were done or nearly so, but have heard no more since concerning them. What is the meaning of the Greek letters in the middle column intervening between the names and places of residence, in our catalogues? Pray, give us a full explanation.

Concerning the Presidency the chapter here freely yields it to Theta without any convention being held until the time for the regular one fixed by the constitution.

J. B. KIRBY, JEWELER, TO MR. HUGH BOYD, OHIO.

NEW HAVEN, May 9, 1859.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 4th inst. is at hand and its contents noted, we can make the diamond pins at \$10 and upwards according to the size of stone, those with imitation \$6, made in a very superior manner and in such a style as we are sure would please you. If you would like to order one for a sample you could do so and if liked would be pleased to make you all you may want by the time you will want them.

Please let me hear from you as early as possible in order to give as much time as we may want to make them.

JOHN WATSON WOODS, WASHINGTON, VA., TO HUGH BOYD, OHIO.

LEXINGTON, VA., May 21, 1859.

As I have just come into office, and have been a Greek for only a short time, you must allow me to introduce myself to you

as a new and almost unfledged Beta ,and as this is my first letter, you must overlook its many imperfections.

Brother Blain received your letter in April, disapproving of a called convention in Richmond, Virginia, next August. Since hearing your opinion and that of several others, we now think it best to give up the idea altogether, as it is impossible to get the unanimous consent of all the chapters. Perhaps we were influenced somewhat by selfish notions; as we were not represented at the last convention owing to the sickness and death of a sister of our delegate. We were pleased at the prospects of a convention in our own state, where the most of our members could attend.

We agree with you in thinking that Eta should be allowed to resign under existing circumstances, and that the presidency should descend to Theta as the next in order. The idea that Zeta should resume the presidency until 1860 has not been expressed by any other chapter at least to my knowledge. This we think would be altogether unfair, and as we have already had the honor for two years, we would be willing for Theta to take it without even considering her first title to it.

JAMES P. COFFIN, NORTH CAROLINA, TO HUGH BOYD, OHIO.

CHAPEL HILL, N. C., May 28th, 1859.

Before me is your letter of the 1st of April directed to Brother Croom, and as I believe he has never replied, I will do so, though quite briefly.

Theta has declined serving as presiding chapter because their numbers are too few. Zeta will therefore reassume the robes of office, and preside until the meeting of the next convention.

Please reply by return of mail and let us know when our catalogues will be out. Direct in reply to J. Turner Morehead, lest it should not reach here before we Seniors leave here, as we only have some two more weeks to spend here. When you send the catalogues direct them to J. Turner Morehead also.

A. E. WELSH, MICHIGAN, TO DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO.

ANN ARBOR, MICH., June 20, 1859.

Our catalogues have been received in good order. They are

printed in good style and are admired by all. I should think that you would congratulate yourself upon having got through with a mighty hard job. Accept the thanks of Lambda for your success.

EDWARD B. WRIGHT, WESTERN RESERVE, TO JAMES E. COOPER,
HANOVER.

OBERLIN, OHIO, Aug. 26th, 1859.

I have been attending commencement here on my way to Michigan. There is a large institution here but there are some things rather ridiculous about it, or perhaps I ought to say rather queer.

I write to ask you to make a change or two in the list I sent you of our names.

The first is of John S. Newberry (whose name is on the first page of our chapter in the old catalogue). When I wrote I told you to give his employment as professor in Columbian College, Washington. Please change it to "Surgeon and Geologist of U. S. Colorado Expedition."

Second, I told you to give Elizur Wolcott's residence as Hudson and his employment as tutor in W. R. College. Please change it to Andover, Mass. Student of Theology.

Third (in the written list I sent you). I gave you Edwin Child's residence as New Orleans. Please change it to Hudson, Ohio. I have printed under his name "Tutor in W. R. College."

I hope it is not too late to make these changes. I saw a "man of color" graduate here yesterday and get a diploma. I suppose that would seem queer enough at the South.

I hope we shall hear the news from the convention soon. When you write direct as usual to Hudson.

N. F. DICKSON, CENTRE, TO HUGH BOYD, OHIO.

DANVILLE, KY., September 20, 1859.

If you can furnish me with the dates of all the Chapters I will be much obliged. Will you likewise send me a list of the Secretaries you know of? The number of students in Centre College is greatly increased. The number of rival societies has

also increased. It was very fortunate for us that these two things happened together.

The additional society we have to contend with is the $\Lambda \kappa \Phi$. This society I think originated here. I cannot hear of it from any any other part of the country. It is taking everybody it can persuade to join them. Quite a number have declined connection altogether with them. I am not at all surprised either as they are the commonest sort of fellows, and have the ugliest badge I ever saw. It is in shape a little like the Beta pin but is made of white enamel and is half as large as a shirt bosom or something less. Epsilon is in good condition.

ROBERT E. STEWART, JEFFERSON, TO GEORGE M. GILCHRIST,
HANOVER.

CANONSBURG, PA., Oct. 20th, 1859.

We of Gamma send greeting to our persecuted brethren of Iota and entertain the warmest sympathy and commiseration for them, hoping that the brightness of a better day has dawned already upon them.

Gamma is prospering finely. We were deprived of the fellowship of four noble Greeks at last commencement, two of whom graduated, *viz.*: Sample and Robert Stewart. Stewart received the first honor of his class and that is prized very highly and justly too, when there are sixty to seventy in a class. We had also one of our men elected Original Orator by one of the Literary Societies, for the annual contest between them next spring. But what is better than all we have been successful in adding to our band some most noble boys, all of whom had propositions from other principal fraternities at college before they received ours, but we have no trouble getting members here, after we come to the conclusion that they are worthy, unless they are previously engaged to some other fraternity. Our principle is to let the chapter go down rather than take in any other than first class men; among the seven fraternities here there is not one so particular as to the character of its members as our $B \Theta \Pi$ and this they all understand perfectly well, to their own dissatisfaction. Our Reverend and dear Professor, who recently took to himself a wife of the daughters of the land, has been

blessed with the evolution of a young chap, supposed to be an extract from the "Greek Root." There have quite a number of students gathered in this session, between eighty and ninety, I believe. You could hardly imagine how greedily the barbarian hordes swallow them down. I almost believe that some are proposed to before they get their trunks fairly unpacked, but of course, those who would go into such fraternities so inconsiderately would not make Greeks. But for the present I must draw to a close, hoping to hear from you again ere long.

HARRISON MCNEIL, INDIANA, TO HUGH BOYD, OHIO.

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA, Oct. 30, 1859.

Since the statistics of our Chapter were sent to you by Brother Wilson we have taken in two new members both as "sharp young men" as are raised in Indiana soil, which you know is very productive of great men. I as one of the Corresponding secretaries was appointed to send their names to you. Here are the names, occupations, and residences.

James P. Applegate,	Jeffersonville, Ind.	Student.
Seth W. Tuley,	New Albany, Ind.	Student.

Besides these two there is another name which we wish to have placed in our Chapter. It is at the request of the person himself. He was formerly a member of your Chapter (K) and leaving that College at the close of his Junior year, he came here and graduated. He was one of the founders of our revived Chapter.

Name	Residence	Occupation.
S. Lybrand Binkley,	Tarlton, Ohio,	Minister

We earnestly desire that you will make this addition to our roll.

E. H. BARNETT, HAMPDEN-SIDNEY, TO GEORGE M. McCAMPBELL, HANOVER.

HAMPDEN-SIDNEY, October 31, 1859.

Zeta is flourishing. We have taken in four members this term and now number eight of whom one is a Senior, five are Juniors and two are Sophomores.

We are known here and have a pretty firm hold as you may know when we tell you out of the five professors in college four

are regular staunch Betas. So you see we are far from being in the same state you are and which we are very sorry to hear. Our present prospects are flattering. There are a good many Φ $\K$ Ψ 's here now and some Ξ Λ 's, both outnumbering us but they don't beat us as regards standing. To show you how we stand with the President of the college, the only one of the Faculty not a Beta—out of the five Betas in the Junior class four were appointed by him to deliver public orations on the twenty-second of December, and that out of ten. That is how we carry the day.

DAVID W. THOMPSON, ILLINOIS COLLEGE, TO GEORGE M. McCAMPBELL, HANOVER.

JACKSONVILLE, ILL., November 6, 1859.

Your kind favor of the 19th is before me from the hand of Brother Eno whose term of service has expired, and though I have already written eight letters this evening I will not pass you by because you are last for I assure you you are by no means least. Sigma was greatly delighted to hear from Sister Iota whose long silence has caused her some feelings of anxiety. Indeed we were entertaining serious doubts as to whether Iota was really extant. Our feelings therefore upon receiving a letter were those of unfeigned rejoicing. We heartily sympathize with Iota in her embarrassment and hope that the day may soon dawn when she may not fear to let her light shine at home as well as abroad. Strive to make her the grand center of attraction by drawing into her ranks only those whose talent, genius, intellectual capacity, purity of heart, fidelity and devotedness to principle shall bring honor upon her name and vindicate the nobility of her character.

We at present number nine, four of whom are graduates and the rest in college. We are few but (with the exception of myself) we have the cream of Illinois College. The morning of prosperity now begins to dawn upon us and Sigma looks forward to a cloudless sky. We are loved and honored by the Barbarians and the semi-barbarians dare not bring their ranks against us for they well know that one true Beta can chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand of them to flight. Brother McCampbell let us not neglect this matter of correspondence, let us discharge faithfully our duties as enjoined upon us by

the constitution, let us ever respond to the monthly pulsations of Beta's great heart.

IRVIN B. WRIGHT, MIAMI, TO THOMAS M. BAXTER, MICHIGAN.

OXFORD, OHIO, December 5, 1859.

Alpha at present is in a very flourishing condition. She consists of sixteen members. Of their standing in society, and college, it is necessary to say nothing, for to know that they are Betas is to know who and what sort of persons they are. We have two other secret societies in college besides the B Θ Π. They are the Α Δ Φ and the Δ Κ Ε. What sort of animals they are, there is no use of telling you, for I suppose you have both of them with you, and know full well what they are.

But I can assure you that the Beta Theta Pi has, and I hope will always continue to hold, the first place among the secret societies. Enclosed you will find a list of our members, and a Beta Theta Pi song composed by one of our graduated boys. It is beautiful, and I think expresses a Grecian spirit, especially the last stanza. It is sung to "Benny Havens O!"

We have heard from all the other chapters except yours, and they have all sent us encouraging words concerning their welfare, and prosperity, and I hope to hear the same good news from your chapter before long. I saw your Palladium a few days ago, and although your number is not as great as some of the rest, yet if all of yours are true Betas, I think we have nothing to fear.

In members here we are about the same with the Alphas and more than the Deltas, but in other respects a comparison between the societies, I think would be an insult to the Beta society.

The committee appointed at the last Biennial convention, to get up a Beta watch key have reported to our chapter, to which by order of the Convention they were to report. The key is composed wholly of gold and the main part of the key is in the shape of our badge, but with different devices. It costs the same as the badge I believe. If any of you boys want one, you had better write and inquire the price, for I may be mistaken. Enclosed you will find the card of the firm which makes them.

JAMES EVANS, JEFFERSON, TO GEORGE M. GILCHRIST, HANOVER.

CANONSBURG, PA., December 12, 1859.

Your kind favor of the 20th was handed to me by Brother Stewart who has resigned the secretaryship and whose place I was chosen to fill. Although young in the faith and teachings of Betaism I hope by diligence and attention to advance to the utmost the cause of Betaism and to merit the confidence and trust reposed in me. Although we have a numerous and powerful opposition to cope with we still stand high above all in true merit and worth and none who do not come up to our standard fully are taken in. They must stand well in college and be first rate generally, such as Betas are the world over. The Betas who were in the last class graduated with the highest honors and in the present class Brother Stewart is the Original Orator for the Franklin Society. We have a very nice place of meeting. Two of us room in a retired part of the village at what has been long known as the "Beta Fort" where we have a room very nicely furnished and well suited for the purpose. After we have spent a good time there we go to the "Oyster Saloon" and have a grand, and peculiar supper, thence to the arms of Morpheus clasped in whose friendly embrace we give the oysters free course to run and be glorified. With respect to your request. I would say that Frank Birch is corresponding secretary at Washington, Pa. The chapter at that college (which is seven miles distant from here) is in quite a flourishing condition. Some of the brightest men there are Betas.

We number at present seven members. Two seniors, three juniors, one sophomore, and one freshman. One of the professors (Latin) is a Beta. He meets with us sometimes and is quite friendly and social. But he was married lately and between his teaching, nursing the baby and tending to his wife he is unable to meet with us often as he would like to.

JOHN D. ALEXANDER, INDIANA, TO GEORGE M. GILCHRIST,
HANOVER.

BLOOMINGTON, IND., January 7, 1860.

You cannot conceive how much pleasure your letter brought

informing me of your late election of members, I now sit down to write as though I knew at least one of your band. But I may say I know you all if not personally, at least in heart. How I should like to visit and have the pleasure of meeting in the chapter a relative, and all of you true hearted Greeks. I could enjoy myself hugely. Perhaps it may be so at some time. A happy New Year to you all! 1859 is gone and is numbered among the "things that were." 1860 now is ushered into existence. And since last year has passed away bearing upon its bosom many thousands of our race, this year will also do the same as the question is who will be gathered up by the ruthless hand of time. Enough of this. I shall feel right melancholy over it. Well do I remember the latter part of '58. One Tuesday night at a certain room * * * not far from college a "few chosen students" met for a purpose unknown except to themselves. After the business was over a "Dog" in the shape of crackers, apples, bologna sausages was brought in and a certain *red headed blue-eyed* student was so sick he couldn't attend recitations next day. Let Moses Dunn guess who he was. Pi sends much love to Iota and wishes her happiness and prosperity forever.

SAMUEL C. AYRES, MIAMI, TO GEORGE M. GILCHRIST, HANOVER.

OXFORD, O., January 8th, 1860.

I have just heard from D. W. Thompson of Sigma Chapter, of the last disaster which has destroyed your Beta records. I am very sorry indeed that such an occurrence should have happened, for doubtless you have thus lost much that was valuable to you. You should endeavor to replace as much of it as possible so that all record of the past actions of the chapter may not be entirely lost. I would have written to you sooner but I did not know who was corresponding secretary. In fact, it is so long since we have heard from you we did not know that your chapter was living. I do not know to whom the blame of this long silence belongs. I hope that in the future our intercourse may be more intimate.

We are very glad to know that Betaism *still exists* at Hanover and I hope it may long continue there an honor to our fraternity. Not having heard from you for so long a time we know nothing of your condition. Your last corresponding secretary I

believe was Wm. Payne. We have written to him but have received no answer. Alpha is now in a fine condition. We have about seventeen members, all of them true Betas.

I hope we will hear from you soon, for we are anxious to know how you are getting along. If I can assist you in any way I would be happy to do so. I would now send you a list of corresponding secretaries, but Thompson I suppose has already sent them. Alpha sends much love to her long lost child, Iota.

NELSON F. DICKSON, CENTRE, TO GEORGE M. GILCHRIST,
HANOVER.

DANVILLE, KY., January 8, 1860.

Your very encouraging favor of the 31st December, was received a short time since. I was very glad to hear of Iota's prosperity and have no doubt that you are a noble band. I hope that you may succeed in your plans beyond your most sanguine expectations. Please let me know how you succeeded with the officers of the college. I received a letter from Brother Crutcher, Asbury University, last week. He writes good long ones. Delta is flourishing finely, he even thinks that she rivals Epsilon in prosperity, but that I think can hardly be, Epsilon, I suppose, is one of the most flourishing chapters in the order. We have fourteen as fine fellows as ever were associated together in a common cause. I cordially endorse your sentiments in regard to the benefits derived from our order and the rapid strides with which it is now advancing. We have nothing to fear but that our unparalleled prosperity will weaken our energies and render us careless. We must succeed if our members are true to their duty.

Last week an Alpha returned to Centre from Oxford where he spent the holidays and brought back with him the pass word and grip of the Betas. From his first report I feared that he had our whole constitution. He said that the secret societies over there have each other's constitutions. We requested him to give up the paper upon which he said he had it written and bind himself to say nothing about it. He did so and the whole affair was very readily and gentlemanly settled. I do not know how he got his information.

Three out of the six speakers on the celebration of the 22nd of February are Betas—Douglas, Duncan and Palmer.

THOMAS H. DUDLEY, CUMBERLAND, TO GEORGE M. GILCHRIST,
HANOVER.

LEBANON, TENN., January 21, 1860.

I received a few days ago your letter in answer to Brother Everetts and take great pleasure in answering it. Truly glad was I to hear from your chapter and still more pleased to learn that it was looking up, gaining ground and from present prospects would soon reach an eminence when it could with conscious strength bid defiance to all opposition and proudly wave the banner of Betaism. We say God speed you. Believe our best wishes are for your welfare and success.

In truth I can say with you that those special nights which come once a week and during which hours fly on golden wings, fully repay the loss of pleasure by the cares and toils of the balance of the week. 'Tis on those nights that kindred spirits meet alone around the Mystic board and each is able to give a negative response to the poet's question when he asked: "In Joyous Youth, what soul hath never known, Thought, feeling, taste, harmonious to his own." Long after we have ended our college days and when we shall be engaged in the active duties of real life, oft will each turn aside and in the pensive hour give loose rein to his fancy and let her play over the scenes which render life so much like a sweet and changing dream.

Brother Everett no doubt has informed you of our present prosperity. I will only add that it continues. We are at present looking forward to the junior exhibition which commences next Wednesday. It will be rather a scary time to me as I will have to make my debut on that occasion. However, I shall summon all my brass which is a very useful article in its place. There will be also another interesting occasion when the Moot Court exercises commence which is on Monday next. And still another on the 22nd of February when the Societies will celebrate the birthday of George Washington. They have elected a member from each to deliver an address on the occasion. E. B. Crow was chosen from one and R. L. Caruthers from the other, both of whom are

good Betas. I shall close by asking you to send me a catalogue of your college.

I received a letter from Delta the other day. It is flourishing. Mr. Thomas Crutcher is the corresponding secretary. Write soon. Mu will be glad to hear from her sister Iota, feeling as she does a deep interest in her welfare as in all the others.

EDGAR N. WILCOX, MICHIGAN, TO GEORGE M. McCAMPBELL,
HANOVER.

ANN ARBOR, February 20th, 1860.

I have a letter before me from Iota dated October 22nd, 1859, written to Brother Welch which he says has not yet been answered. Having been elected to the honorable position of corresponding secretary at the last meeting of Lambda I enter with pleasure on my duties. Brother Welch was corresponding secretary last year but was not able to return this year and consequently all letters that were directed to him were forwarded to his residence in Minnesota. He sent me a day or two ago some letters and yours among others to be answered, which I undertake to do with pleasure.

I am sorry that Iota is obliged to "hide her light under a Bushel" but such persecutions only serve to bind more closely together the hearts which beat in unison with Beta's "F. & F." I agree with you perfectly in regard to the importance of the correspondence between the different chapters and our boys unanimously agree that the reading of letters at our meetings is the best of all the exercises. I do not know but I am telling a "Twice told tale" in relating Lambda's prospects now but if so please *skip*.

We have always been subjected to the necessity of meeting at sundry places and in divers manners so that in regard to meetings we became literally "Unstable as the winds"; we saw the necessity of a reformation and as we number at present some *twenty-three* members we came to the conclusion that there was no better time than the present.

So last October we procured a fine hall and a room which was connected with it for \$100 per year and have furnished it to the *tune* of another hundred and now with all our debts paid I

think we can safely affirm that Lambda is in a flourishing condition.

We number pretty largely but we have a large number to choose from.

There are seven secret Societies in existence here though the Alpha Delt's are our principal rivals—a rivalry which we have no reason to fear however.

Having a large number of unanswered letters before me I must perforce write short ones.

DAVID W. THOMPSON, ILLINOIS COLLEGE, TO GEORGE M. GILCHRIST, HANOVER.

JACKSONVILLE, ILL., March 25th, 1860.

If your kind favor of the 10th had been a little sooner, it would have saved me the unpleasant necessity of sending you a short reproof for your lack of attention to duty. As far as I am concerned, I can pardon you, a thousand times, from the bottom of my heart, nor do I doubt but all the sons of Beta here will grant as free and perfect absolution; for sickness is always a good excuse. My letters too are so uninteresting that I cannot on that account demand attention to them. But my dear brother, it seems to me that nothing short of sickness should tempt you to neglect the cause of Beta, which we, bound under solemn oath, have espoused with all the ardor of our youthful love. To discharge the responsibilities enjoined by it, should be at least *one* of the prime objects of every true and jealous Beta and such I believe *you* to be. Sigma is prospering, as well as her sisters from all of whom nothing at present but good news is to be heard.

We have, for the future, as bright prospects as we could desire. For the present year the valedictory is ours, and our prospect is good for the same next year, and the year after, providing the stars of Beta that now shine here do none of them set, or lose their present lustre, in the radiance of a brighter sphere. We now number just your number (9) and the bond of union and fraternity which binds us together might bid defiance to a horde of as zealous barbarians as are found this side the Styx. We, (your humble servant—excepted) have the talent, the power, the capacity in fact the *ability* in every sense of the word to a letter

with which to oppose; but lack the worthy object with which to contend. It is true we have three secret orders here besides Beta Theta Pi, but they are mere things of a local habitation and a name, of whom Illinois College is the Alpha and the Omega. We have always held the sway in Illinois College and none of them have ever dared to measure swords with us; they haven't got the life; indeed they seem lost in their own isolation, and I might justly add, insignificance and pusillanimity.

EDGAR N. WILCOX, MICHIGAN, TO GEORGE M. GILCHRIST,
HANOVER.

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN, March 27, 1860.

Yours of March 7th has been in my possession for some time and should have been answered before, but owing to a concatenation of circumstances I have been unable to do so till now. Tonight our Junior Exhibition takes place and in consideration of the event the Faculty have condescended to give us a vacation for the remainder of the week. And so having no lessons to attend to I shall embrace this opportunity to renew Lambda's acquaintance with the several chapters of The Glorious B Θ II.

When your letter was read the "Boys" were highly delighted to hear Iota's prosperity under the "Bushel." Your idea of a tax for defraying expenses to the convention is an admirable one for we all know that an attendance at such a convention requires considerable of the "Filthy Lucre." I don't know how it is at South Hanover but here the majority of our students are poor and although we have some in our chapter who have plenty of money yet *very few* have enough to attend the convention on their "own hook."

I received a letter from Brother Lewis, corresponding secretary of Alpha, the other day and he tells me the convention will be at Columbus, O., and adds that their chapter will attend en masse! He also speaks very favorably of establishing a chapter at Beloit but as we have had no meeting since I received his letter it has not yet been considered by us. The truth is our boys are not much in favor of establishing so many chapters at colleges where it is uncertain whether they will "Rise and Shine"

or dwindle away and finally expire as they certainly will if the institution at which they are established does not continually advance and increase its advantages.

I suppose I may safely offer you my congratulations on the spirit and eclat with which you "got off" that "Speech" I assure you that I shall eagerly con the pages of the Edinburgh Review for an extended notice of it.

DAVID W. THOMPSON, ILLINOIS COLLEGE, TO THE HANOVER
CHAPTER.

JACKSONVILLE, ILLS., May 30, 1860.

We of Sigma are very much in sympathy with you in your late loss by that hard master, fire, of all the precious documents of your chapter, bearing as it were the footprints of those who have gone before you. A similar disaster occurred at Danville, Ky., a few weeks since as you have probably heard. A good part of the city of Danville was laid in ruins.

I have carefully transcribed a copy of our constitution for you and send it with this. Sigma is in a flourishing condition. I will make out a list of corresponding secretaries for you and send with this. The constitution on account of my scrawling and running hand I could not get on one sheet of paper so I have written it on two and will send it rolled up in a scroll in a separate package, mailed at the same time with this. I might send a list of our acting members but you already have one as we have not taken in any new members lately. Please accept the warmest affection of Sigma and her advocate for yourself and chapter.

A—S. C. Ayres, Oxford, O.

B—A. T. Brinsmade, Hudson, O.

Γ—George A. Chalfant, Canonsburg, Pa.

Δ—D. Frank Embree, Greencastle, Ind.

E—Geo. R. Gill, Danville, Ky.

Z—John G. Yaser, Hampden-Sidney, Va.

Θ—A. N. Mead, Delaware, O.

H—Chapel Hill, N. C.

I—G. M. Gilchrist, South Hanover, Ind.

K—D. H. Moore, Athens, Ohio.

Λ—Edgar N. Wilcox, Ann Arbor, Mich.

M—Thos. Henry Dudley, Lebanon, Tenn.

N—Frank Birch, Washington, Pa.

O—Phillip Haxall, Charlottesville, Va.

Π—John D. Alexander, Bloomington, Indiana.

P—J. W. Wood, Lexington, Va.

Σ—E. C. D. Robbins, Galesburg, Ill.

T—B. E. Rhoads, Crawfordsville, Indiana.

Υ—Columbia, S. C.

Φ—Joseph Thompson, Davidson Coll., N. C.

Please answer immediately upon the receipt of this and let us know if everything goes safely. I shall feel anxious about the fate of the constitution till I hear that you have received it. Now don't forget, if it never reaches you I can hardly forgive myself for having entrusted so precious a document to our treacherous mails.

E. H. BARNETT, HAMPDEN SIDNEY, TO GEO. M. GILCHRIST,
HANOVER.

HAMPDEN SIDNEY COLLEGE, VA., June 11, 1860.

I wish to inform Iota that the biennial convention of Beta Theta Pi will meet in Columbus, Ohio, on Wednesday, August 15, 1860. I will be back here September 10, 1860. Write accordingly. Our commencement is on June 14th. Have one or more delegates at the convention.

STEPHEN C. AYRES, MIAMI, TO GEORGE M. McCAMPBELL.

OXFORD, OHIO, September 22nd, 1860.

As your term has by this time commenced it is proper that our Beta correspondence should also commence. It is with pleasure that I now enter upon my duties as corresponding secretary of Alpha and I hope my duties will be as pleasant as I anticipate.

Our chapter is now in a very fine condition. We have fourteen members. Ten of us were here before, two have been taken in this session, and two are from other chapters, one from Tau and one from your chapter. So you see we are commencing this year very well. We intend to do our very best, and sustain the

high reputation which the Beta Society has ever held in "Old Miami." We have the numbers to do it, and we have the brains also. I do not say this in a boastful manner, but simply state the facts. Have you received your copy of the minutes of the convention yet? We have not. We are waiting very anxiously for them as we would like to know what instructions were given to us.

We are happy to have added to our numbers one of Iota's sons. We do not wish to deprive you of any of your good members, but we are always glad to have our own ranks strengthened. We wish you much success in the Beta cause.

WILLIAM O. CAMPBELL, JEFFERSON, TO JOHN C. YOUNGKEN,
HANOVER.

CANONSBURG, PA., October 22, 1860.

This is my first attempt at Beta correspondence and fear of not doing the business right has perhaps delayed my answer beyond a proper time. I have my doubts as to whether I am better prepared to write a Beta letter now than I was some time ago. If one does his duty at the proper time and as well as he is able I suppose no one would attempt to disparage him. I do not pretend to say there is anything peculiar about a Beta letter, that the language should be more flowery, or the penmanship more elegant or the flourishes more graceful, but the nobler the theme, the nobler the thoughts.

We were much pleased to hear a cheering letter from Iota. We wish you success. You labor in a good cause and the more noble hearted men you receive, the more you save from the destruction of Barbarian influence. Our number is few, and we are warm in the Grecian cause, but with so many opposing forces we are beginning to disparage, we have six Barbarian fortresses to contend against and some of them have a goodly number of members.

They are in the habit of taking men in before they have been scarcely a week at college and consequently before they are sufficiently well acquainted with a man to know what he is like. We have not considered it advisable to do this and therefore have not been very fortunate in getting in members, and have even con-

sidered it advisable to let Gamma "die out" than to take members into the fraternity before we know anything about them, further than mere acquaintance. If Gamma must die, she shall die as she has lived, and we will give her a burial worthy of her life, but her influence, through the noble little army of Greeks she has sent out must live forever. We received a letter of introduction from one of our men to two Southerners, but before we had our letter opened almost we found them initiated into another fraternity. Another man to whom we proposed wished to go into the society his roommate was going into. One man will accept but wishes to hear from his *Pa* first, he is a good fellow we think and a brother of an old Beta.

We were on the look out for two or three good fellows coming from the same academy but there happened to be a Φ K Ψ coming along with them who took them right off and got them rooms along with his brothers and so we were out there. This is partly what we have been doing, but as you see we have come little ahead. We have sufficient numbers here yet, but they are all unfortunately in the Senior and Junior classes. Perhaps you can suggest some plan by which we may be successful, but we are persuaded that we cannot by our present plan. We think that it is not much honor to have a Beta chapter here now, when we have so many *filthy* barbarians around us. The contact might pollute Gamma, who has remained so pure and untainted for so long a time, if she dies, let her die without a stain and it will be an honor to her name and all her members.

O. W. COOLIDGE, BELOIT, TO HARRISON WILSON, OHIO.

BELOIT, WIS., November 26, 1860.

It is with pleasure that I am officially charged with the duty of informing you that a chapter of the Beta Theta Pi has lately been established here through the kind services of Elisha Morgan, Jr., who was formerly a member of the Society at Wabash College. The chapter was formerly organized about four weeks since, members initiated and officers chosen. In the selection of members great care has been taken to initiate only those who it was thought would labor to promote the interests of such a society as the Beta. The following names have been signed to the Con-

stitution: S. K. Martin, President; S. D. Hastings, Recording Secretary; Elisha Morgan, Jr., and O. W. Coolidge, Corresponding secretaries; Geo. H. Cooper, H. S. Osborne, Samuel Erskine, L. E. Smith, Lyman W. Winslow and Henry Burton.

The number you see is small, but it has been thought best to keep the number quite limited for some time yet. In the distribution of college honors the Betas have been successful. Messrs. Martin, Burton and Osborne have received the three highest honors in the coming Junior exhibition. I may add also that the editors of the *Beloit Monthly*, a magazine published by the college students, are all Betas. In public debates during the little time we have been organized, the Beta element has been strong. We are yet young in our membership, and we need advice and encouragement from our older brethren.

COURTLAND C. MATSON, INDIANA ASBURY, TO HARRISON
WILSON, OHIO.

GREENCASTLE, IND., November 30, 1860.

I see in looking over a list of the corresponding secretaries of our order, that you are acting in that official capacity for Kappa. I therefore feel it incumbent upon me to address you at once.

It seems to me that the chapters are not sufficiently alive to the interests of our order, or they would certainly be more prompt in their correspondence. We do not pretend to exonerate ourselves. We feel guilty as any. Yet we may speak our sentiments, we trust, without offending any.

Delta is prospering. She numbers 7, one senior, 5 juniors and 1 freshman. We by no means, as you will see from the above, make numbers an object. We take none, we get none, but the best of quality, and the best of a large quantity.

I will send you the list of the corresponding secretaries so far as I have their names and the names of the respective chapters. They are, Alpha Chapter, S. C. Ayres; Epsilon, A. W. Metcalf; Iota, G. M. McCampbell; Pi, I. B. Black; Rho, J. A. Lyle, Jr.

T. C. HARRISON, WABASH, TO THE SECRETARY OF HANOVER
CHAPTER.

WABASH COLLEGE, CRAWFORDSVILLE, IND., January 30, 1861.
Corresponding Secretary Iota :

You will oblige by acknowledging the receipt of the enclosed
copy of the Minutes of our last Biennial Convention.

SECRETARIES.

Alpha—R. E. Craig, Oxford, O.
Delta—Jno. Corbin, Green Castle, Ind.
Epsilon—Geo. R. Gill, Danville, Ky.
Nu—Wm. Cunningham, Washington, Pa.
Rho—Wm. C. Preston, Lexington, Va.
Pi—Jno. Roberts, Bloomington, Ind.
Zeta—E. H. Barnett, Hampden-Sidney, Va.
Sigma—J. C. Martin, Jacksonville, Ills.
Theta—W. W. Knox, Delaware, O.

TEMPLE C. HARRISON, WABASH, TO JOHN C. YOUNGKEN,
HANOVER.

CRAWFORDSVILLE, IND., Feb. 9th, 1861.

Your favor of the 4th instant is before me. And in reply I
would say that we were all very glad to hear from Iota, and we
sympathize with you in the ill wishes you have to bear from the
Faculty and Barbarians.

You speak of the propriety of coming out and making a
"free, bold and honorable fight." I do not altogether favor the
idea. My own humble opinion is that it would be best for you to
remain as quiet as possible. I think this best even in those col-
leges, when our chapters have the sanction and favor of the
Faculty, and especially so where they are forbidden. The "strong
arm" of the Faculty in open conflict is almost always invincible
and in the end victorious. I am enclined to think that if your
faculty is as stubborn as ours (and doubtless all faculties are very
similar in that particular) that if you should attempt openly to
maintain your rights, they would not be as lenient in enforcing the
doctrine of "coercion" in your case as is "old Buck" at present in
national affairs.

However I have no doubt but that whatever you are convinced is best for the dignity, prosperity and honor of Iota and the fraternity you will do. We are also opposed here by the Faculty but we have our regular weekly meetings and are remarkably successful in all we undertake. We are ever on the alert and also ever mindful of the motto: "lie low and keep dark."

There is another society here the $\Phi \Delta \Theta$.

But they cannot vie

With the $B \Theta \Pi$.

We adhere scrupulously to the principle to receive no one except those of high moral and intellectual worth and from this fact in connection with the personal popularity of "our boys" it is accounted for that almost all the honors of Old Wabash are bestowed upon Betas. And the Barb's being in "blissful ignorance" of the existence of our order form no leagues against us, as is often done where the existence of a chapter is not *sub rosa*.

Our chapter at present number 13, all true, earnest and faithful. Seniors, W. M. Dickey and J. C. Fullenwider; Junior, J. E. Cleland; Sophs., J. R. Carnahan, J. B. Fairchild, J. A. Finch and T. C. Harrison; Freshman, A. B. Clark, J. H. Meteer and W. L. Sullivan; Prep. Dept., J. C. Hadley, C. A. Parke and E. E. White.

Eight are members of a church (N. S. Pres.) viz: Fullenwider, Carnahan, Finch, Harrison, Clark, Meteer, Sullivan and White. Four are studying with a view to the Christian Ministry: Fullenwider, Carnahan, Clark and Meteer. Four with a view to the law: Clelland, Fairchild, Finch and Harrison. The other five are undecided as to what profession they will enter but we have no fear that they will not act nobly their part in life in whatever sphere they may be called to labor.

I fully concur with you in endorsing the sentiment which our Biennial Minutes show has been so generally adhered to, that the glory and honor of our order do not consist in the number so much as the character of the members. I hope this "Golden Rule" of our order will always be observed. I read your letter before the Chapter last night and they said if that was not a good *Beta* letter they would like to have one.

Horace Greeley lectured here last night. Subject: "America, Westward of the Mississippi." His matter is good but his man-

ner is wretched. Bayard Taylor is to be here on the 23rd. Subject: "The Arabs: Children of the Desert."

A. THURSTON POPE, BETHANY, TO HARRISON WILSON, OHIO.

BETHANY, VA., March 16, 1861.

Some three or four weeks past, we were informed by the presiding chapter of our election as a chapter of Beta Theta Pi. For this end we had labored long and perseveringly and this joyous news made our hearts glad indeed. It is with pleasure that I open a correspondence between youthful Psi and aged Kappa.

Since that time we have increased our number to seven, and are strong in the hope of making one more excellent addition to-night. This is all we desire this session, inasmuch as we wish to imitate the illustrious example that has been set us, and endeavor to procure quality not quantity. To observe this course of action, we have been exhorted by the letters we have received from the brothers. I am rejoiced that I can inform you, and not boastingly, we are head and shoulders above all other secret societies in College. I think I never saw a new chapter set sail on so clear a sea. A delightful breeze gently fills our sails, the heavens smile serenely and we are confident of anchoring in the desirable harbour of worthy superiority. Yes, I think she will be a bright star in our gorgeous constellation. She will stand as the sturdy oak against the moaning winds of opposition. With the crew we have and another one who will make a noble Greek, we are ready for the voyage.

We have received letters from Danville, Ky., and Indiana University and Washington College, Va. Our order seems ever to be prospering.

TEMPLE C. HARRISON, WABASH, TO JOHN C. YOUNGKEN,
HANOVER.

CRAWFORDSVILLE, IND., March 27, 1861.

Your very kind favor of the 20th inst., came to hand a few days ago. But as I was then in the pressure of the examinations and also like yourself, was loaded with the burden of a speech for society exhibition, I delayed writing until released from those

burdens. Now, however, it is all over, the examination is past and the Betas, as usual, stand foremost in sound scholarship and deep erudition.

The society exhibitions occurred on last evening and the evening before (I enclose programme for each). The orations on both evenings were considered very creditable. The palm, however, has been awarded to the Lyceum. The Φ Δ Θ's were ahead of us this year in the number of speakers having six out of the eight, the entire four from the Calliopean Society and two from the Lyceum, Black and Railsback, both of whom, however, are good speakers. Mr. Little is a barbarian but a good speaker, nevertheless. My own was the only Beta's name on the list, and I will only say that I endeavored at least, not to prove unworthy of the trust and responsibility which rested upon me.

But perhaps I am growing weary on this point. I am pleased to learn that there are favorable indications of a brighter dawning of prosperity for Iota. May all clouds of adversity be one day dispelled from her sky and the glorious star of the prosperity shine forth with renewed and lasting splendor. For if there is anything in which all rejoice it is the prosperity and success of the B Θ II.

Our order is noble and exalted and worthy of the admiration of the world. I rejoice that it is not founded on blood nor wealth, but on the firmer basis of *moral* and *intellectual worth*, the only true standard of excellence among our fellow men. And I trust that it will flourish and spread till all who are worthy in the colleges of the land shall be brought into its fostering arms and united with us in the bonds of "F. & F." It is fitting that merit should be rewarded. And it does seem to me a noble and worthy object to strive to be all that our powers of mind and heart will enable us to be. It is a beautiful thought to think of raising ourselves from the narrow limits of untutored uncultivated life to those broader and ever widening regions in the conceptions of progressive mind which give us a more near approximation with the eternal Creator himself.

But in all our strivings for mental and moral excellence true and brotherly advice and encouragement are needed. And where better can these be obtained than in a chapter of the B Θ II?

I should be pleased to hear from you occasionally during

the coming summer even if you do not remain at college the next term. Do you reside near Hanover? Perhaps our homes are not as distant from each other as our colleges. My home address is Byrnsville, Harrison Co., and only fifteen miles from New Albany.

The April number of our college monthly has just arrived and I shall mail you a copy with this letter. If you notice an article in rhyme expressing a few "modest" wants,

"Don't view it with a critic's eye,

But pass its imperfections by."

But I must close. And permit me to express my best wishes for the welfare of Iota and to yourself personally abundant success in all your efforts for knowledge and usefulness.

I hope to hear from you again soon. And in the meantime may the best of Heaven's blessings attend you and the Allwise and Beneficent Father of us all, guide and guard you in the way that leads to "glory and honor and immortality."

CHAPTER X

THE CIVIL WAR PERIOD

CURRAN A. DEBRULER, INDIANA, TO HARRISON WILSON, OHIO.

BLOOMINGTON, IND., May 9, 1861.

To say that the present condition of Pi Chapter is flourishing, would only be to tell the truth, and yet it seems but mocking to rejoice at our present prosperity, when our future is so gloomy. Six of our number graduate at commencement, one wearied with college life left some days ago, and one leaves tomorrow with a volunteer company, thus leaving but two scientific freshmen to conduct the business and sustain the honor of the Chapter.

A letter from Theta received last week represents the condition of things there as even worse. Out of fifteen they have but two left. They received a letter from Danville, Ky., not long since, bearing the flag of the Southern Confederacy, but recognizing with pleasure the bonds that unite us as one. God grant that the Civil War, about to rend our country in fragments and destroy the hopes of rational freedom all over the world, may leave uninjured the ties of brotherly love that bind together the great family of Greeks.

The Σ X's are as thick as the locusts in Egypt, and the simile is complete when we remember that they were sent as a plague. You must excuse me if I praise the poor fellows a little, for it is the best way that I know of, to give the devil his due, and this is enjoined on us all. To tell the truth, they have one or two pretty sharp fellows, and that is all. They of course control things to suit themselves, and not even the bond of common friendship seems to exist between some of the members.

A rumor has reached us (I suppose you have heard it before) that the Psi Upsilon, desire to have some connecting link with Β Θ Π. What do you think of it? We do not know the general opinion of the chapters in regard to it. I think Pi Chapter is opposed to it.

The war excitement was so intense here for a time that the students almost entirely neglected their studies. But the excitement has passed away, and we wait in patience the day that is to release us, for a time, for study.

E. T. WELLS, OHIO WESLEYAN, TO E. H. GUTHRIE, OHIO.

DELAWARE, O., January 25, 1862.

That our honored Fraternity B Θ II would flourish and prosper in the modern Athens seems inevitable, but prosperity and energy in everything at the present time except in war seems to be checked. And more especially are educational interests neglected. It was a dark day for colleges when this war broke upon our country like a deluge and the people for a time seemed swallowed up in a whirlpool of excitement. Our institution has suffered greatly this term, the attendance is very meagre, fewer students are present than have been for a number of years. Our chapter has also shared in the reduction, many of her noblest sons are in the army battling for their country, and for freedom. We are reduced to only twelve members, but they are all of the right stripe and what we lack in numbers we make up in affection and friendship. We have initiated but three this year, myself among the number. I am but a tyro in this most pleasant part of our fraternity, namely the correspondence, which has been sadly neglected of late. Communication for a time was entirely broken off between the chapters, but we have succeeded in collecting a list of secretaries of nearly all the chapters in the north which I will send in this letter. We have the honor of being the presiding chapter this year, and there are several matters which we would like to have Kappa's opinion on.

CURRAN A. DEBRULER, INDIANA, TO MOSES F. DUNN, HANOVER.

BLOOMINGTON, January 25th, 1862.

Although not personally acquainted with you I address you with the confidence of an old friend, because we are brethren in the great old fraternity of Beta Theta Pi. Through the praiseworthy efforts of our presiding chapter nearly all the chapters in the loyal states have been furnished with the names of many of the corresponding secretaries. We have lately received letters from Alpha giving us a pretty full list, but we have not as yet been able to hear from Iota. Brother John Alexander, who was, I believe, an intimate friend of yours frequently spoke of you as being the eldest child of the chapter at Hanover.

Our corresponding secretaries having a great many Greek

letters to answer, have requested me to aid them and it is in accordance with the request that I now address you. I trust that you will answer this immediately on reception and let us know the condition and prospects of your chapter and the names of your corresponding secretaries.

Pi chapter is still a "living reality" eight true Greeks now gather round her altar and offer up their devotions. This does not include the president of the University, and the Professor of Mathematics; both noble hearted Betas, who take the greatest interest in the prosperity of their beloved fraternity.

Our rivals are Phi Delta Theta and Sigma Chi, the latter being by far the most powerful in numbers. But they are not formidable. The motto of the Sigma Chi is "We protect the worthy," an infernal lie, if we may judge the tree by its fruits. Their only aim seems to be power and influence in the literary societies. This they easily gain, for in *taking* in members, they pay no attention to the scholarship, social feeling or intellectual advancement of their victim.

Although, as before remarked, we are, at present in a most flourishing condition, no timber for Beta flourishes in our soil. We "contain ourselves with patience" until a better time shall come. As you have probably heard a movement is again on foot to unite with Psi Upsilon. The chapters so far as heard from are decidedly in favor of it. Pi chapter is heart and soul. The arrangement, it is said, can be made so as to give satisfaction to all parties, and by the sacrifice of no important principles. Could this be effected we would have a grand fraternity. One that would stand alone "without a model and without a shadow."

THOMAS S. McCLELLAND, BELOTT, TO EDW. H. GUTHRIE, OHIO.

BELOTT, WIS., February 3, 1862.

In behalf of Chi Chapter of Beta Theta Pi, I take pleasure in addressing you a few lines. Laboring under a disadvantage of non-personal acquaintance, it is somewhat embarrassing to enter upon a social communication which is one of the virtues of the organization and which can only be obviated in my mind by a frequent correspondence.

The regular election of officers for the ensuing six months

took place a few evenings ago. Mr. Burton of the Senior Class, President, Mr. Northrup, Recorder and Messrs. S. K. Martin and T. S. McClelland, corresponding secretaries.

I will send to your address, after I have received a letter, a copy of our college catalogue with the names of the Betas marked. We number some fourteen members. Owing to the disadvantage of having to keep the existence of the society secreted from the Faculty, our meetings are irregular and are not attended with such manifest results as would otherwise accrue.

It is the desire of this chapter that a branch of the society be located in the State University, at Madison, Wisconsin. Personally I do not know whether the proposal is a judicious one or not. Messrs. Hastings and Morgan of this chapter are somewhat acquainted with the institution and character of its students and state that a branch might be established there which would do honor to the organization. An expression of yours will be kindly received.

A proposition comes to us to unite with the Psi Upsilon of the East. If such a union can be effected without sacrificing the good name and fame of Beta Theta Pi, our unqualified vote will be given in favor of it.

Will you be so kind as to give me a list of the corresponding secretaries of the different chapters now existing. Not knowing whom to write to we have failed to open a correspondence with the different colleges.

JOHN A. FINCH, WABASH, TO E. H. GUTHRIE, OHIO.

CRAWFORDSVILLE, IND., February 25, 1862.

I have just received a complete list of Corresponding Secretaries of the different Chapters and as it is my intention if possible to keep Tau Chapter in communication with every chapter of our beloved order, while I am her Corresponding Secretary. I open a fire on Kappa without delay.

The subject of correspondence in our society can scarcely be over estimated. It is in fact all that prevents the B Θ Π from becoming a more local institution, exerting an influence not felt beyond the college walls where it happens to be. It is our very life and soul, and every chapter that wishes to keep herself high

in the estimation of her sisters; or rather who wishes not to become ignored almost by them, should look well to it, that her Corresponding Secretary does his duty. Happening to enlarge a little, a few evenings ago, on this subject, I was, as a fit punishment for my rashness, put in the chair of correspondence myself to help Brother Harrison in the arduous work. What will become of me now "the Lord only knows" as I am going to keep the thing going.

Tau, ever prosperous, is still basking in the sunshine of prosperity. The only drawback we have is the necessity for secrecy, which is enjoined upon us by the wise regulation of a sapient set of Trustees, who frequently tell us with severe countenances, that Secret Societies are positively forbidden. Well let them *forbid*. I fear they cannot *prevent*. The faculty are perfectly well aware of our existence, but have not the courage to say so to us. It would be a bad day for Old Wabash, if their rule was enforced, as a number of the students whom they themselves call the flower of the College, would have to be shoved out. Thus, we really have "circumvented" our worthy Professors. We are triumphant over the enemy, the barbs, and the Faculty.

I'll wager my old hat that Tau can, without any trouble, outlaugh all creation. Her children are a jolly set. A play is read for discussion by each boy previous to meeting night. Sometimes, however, we get in a funny mood. Every fellow tells all the late yarns he has picked up which provoke appropriate remarks from the auditors and peal after peal of hearty laughter follows, and our sides become sore from thus indulging our risibles. I fear we sometimes are too devoted to fun to derive any great benefit from association, further than the good of laughing. Tau has many sins to answer for in that way, if sin it be, however, there is plenty of time for repentance still. Tau Chapter voted to unite with the Psi Upsilon. Reasons are plenty as blackberries for either side, the majority was but one in favor of the union. The union will do much to break up the ill feeling between Eastern and Western Colleges which is a disgrace to American students. I say it is a disgrace, and surely nothing could be a more noble object, for our noble order than to tear away that prejudice.

D. W. THOMPSON, ILLINOIS COLLEGE, TO E. H. GUTHRIE, OHIO.

JACKSONVILLE, ILLS., March 3, 1862.

It is not without a touch of sadness that we received your list of secretaries shorn of so many of the Southern Chapters with whom we used to correspond. Here we perceive an instance of the havoc of Secession. Yet, while we feel deeply this grievous stroke, the heart of every loyal Beta should swell with honest pride as he perceives that the fate of this Fraternity is inseparately linked with that of his country. When it is divided, our Fraternity is divided, and when our country shall again become united, then may we see our erring brothers in the general amnesty returning to us again, their pristine patriotism and loyalty thoroughly renewed by the fiery trial of secession.

I am happy to learn that negotiations are again pending to effect a union between the Psi Upsilon and Beta Theta Pi. From my understanding of the character of the Psi Upsilon, I deem it worthy of our serious consideration. I sincerely hope that such union may be effected and such is the opinion of Sigma. The difficulty of a common name is now voided by each retaining its own, and wearing its own badge.

DAVID W. THOMPSON, ILLINOIS COLLEGE, TO GEORGE M. McCAMPBELL, HANOVER.

JACKSONVILLE, ILLINOIS, March 3d, 1862.

In extending to you and your chapter a cordial greeting from Sigma it affords me much pleasure again to resume her correspondence with you and Iota. From the fact (which I deeply regret) that our secretaries for the past year have badly neglected their business, we have been unable to offer to exchange communications with our sister chapters sooner. Now that we are enabled to do so it is not without feelings of sadness that we receive our list shorn of many of the chapters with whom I used to correspond—this is the effect of hated secession.

Sharing in our loved country's calamity, our Fraternity can rightly sympathize with her in this hour of trial. How vividly does this abortive rebellion bring home to us a fitting sense of the blessings of civil unity as well as practical knowledge of the effects of civil discord.

Yet deeply as do we feel this grievous stroke, the heart of every loyal Beta should swell with patriotic pride when he reflects that the fate of our Fraternity is inseparably linked with that of our common country. Divide our Country and you divide our fraternity. When our Country falls, then and not till then will our Fraternity fall amid the ruins of America's pride, her learning and civilization, and when our Country is safe, her government reestablished, her honor vindicated and her flag unfurled to every breeze that fans the Continent from the Gulf to the Lakes, from the Atlantic to the Pacific; then will our erring Brothers return in the General Amnesty, their pristine loyalty and patriotism thoroughly renewed by the fiery trial of secession. We may truly say Our Country's woe is ours, ours our Country's weal.

I am glad to learn that negotiations are again pending to effect a union between the Psi Upsilon and Beta Theta Pi Fraternities. I hope it may be accomplished, Sigma is in favor of such union.

Sigma is not in as flourishing a condition as we could wish in consequence of the unusually poor Barbarian material we have had to work upon. Her devoted three who are now all in the senior class are sound to the core, true Greeks alive to every interest of Beta Theta Pi, as any who meet *sub rosa* to unfold the mysteries yet disdaining to hand down her cause to those who are not worthy to bear her name.

We are scrutinizing with an eye to business a few of the most promising spirits who so far have elicited our admiration and two or three may soon be received within the sacred wall of Beta Theta Pi.

CURRAN A. DEBRULER, INDIANA, TO MOSES F. DUNN, HANOVER.

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA, May 13, 1862.

Your letter came to hand in the usual course of time and things and gave the chapter much pleasure. I congratulate you on the recovery of Iota, and can only hope that she may long survive to be an ornament to Beta Theta Pi and that she will never again languish in disease. I heartily sympathize with you, surrounded as you are by oppressive influences which must be

continually fought for the honor of the fraternity. I trust the day is not far distant when this tyranny will be removed and all of Hanover who wear the badge and bear the name of Beta Theta Pi can proudly show themselves as such in "noondays glare." It seems to me that you have arrived at that point when submission has ceased to be a virtue and I beg of you that you will allow the removal of the senior part of your chapter—hinted at in your letter—to be speedily followed by practical results. The "hint" above spoken of was received with rapture by our only senior who is about the only ornament of the class. The majority are Sigma Chis. After making known this fact comment would be superfluous. A respectable addition would give great tone and dignity to the class and if ever any class stood in need of *men* it is the present senior class of Indiana University.

I suppose you have before this been informed that the presiding chapter in their wisdom have seen proper to change the place of holding the convention and have submitted to the other chapters as suitable places LaFayette Ind., Dayton, Ohio, and Detroit, Mich. They desire that we should choose between the three. We took the liberty to recommend Indianapolis as a better place than either of the three proposed, but if forced to choose we take Lafayette. Our delegate has not yet been selected, but when he is chosen, he will be instructed to vote for the proposed union. We think that it can be effected without any loss of honor or self-respect, and that it will be a very material aid.

I have misplaced the paper containing the names of the corresponding secretaries but I send the following from memory.

Theta (presiding) Delaware, O., N. C. Fleming.

Tau, Crawfordsville, Ind., John A. Finch.

Sigma, Jacksonville, Ill., D. W. Thompson.

Xi, Galesburg, Ill., William Craig.

Lambda, Ann Arbor, Mich., M. L. D'Ooge.

Nu, Washington, Pa.,—I think, Will J. Mills.

Chi, Beloit, Wis., Thos. S. McClelland.

Alpha, Oxford, O., William H. Winters.

As my negligence has displaced the official list please inquire of the presiding chapter for the others.

HENRY M. HURD, MICHIGAN, TO JOHN C. YOUNGKIEF, HANOVER.

ANN ARBOR, May 24, 1862.

Your letter of the 5th, instant, was thrice welcome containing as it did so much good news. It rejoices Lambda beyond measure to know that Iota still keeps her lamp burning so brightly and is so full of the good old Beta spirit. The faculty of Hanover College might as well stop before they commence their crusade against the Beta Theta Pi as to hope to successfully crush out Betaism. They evidently do not know whom they have to deal with. The general result of all such movements on the part of the faculty of other colleges has been to effect *their own* removal not that of the students against whom they were contending. Lambda sympathises most heartily with Iota in her trials and troubles owning to the fact that she once endured equal if not more severe trials. In 1850 the Faculty of the University passed a resolution that it was an offense worthy of expulsion to belong to a secret society which did not present its constitution for the inspection of the faculty. Rather than to violate their promise and read their constitution to the Professors, as did some other Fraternities, the members of the society at that time agreed to leave the University together and for four years our chapter was given up. I often think as I look over our records that those four years in which nothing was done speak eloquently in praise of the devotion of the members at that time as anything else could. In the meantime the action of the faculty raised such a storm of opposition both outside and inside of the University that all the members of the Faculty who favored an anti-secret society policy were forced to resign.

Since the reorganization of our chapter in 1854 we have enjoyed uninterrupted prosperity and feel as though we could now defy Professors, Barbarians and the rest of mankind. I will send you a Palladium, which contains lists of all the different secret Fraternities here so you can see how such institutions flourish here since the Faculty undertook to crush them. You will see that our Order is not as large as many others; but we think that this is one of our chief virtues. Our creed is to get a limited number of *brothers* not an overgrown concern split up and divided in every way as are many of our more numerous

rivals. In fact, our motto is "Qualitas non Quantitas." Perhaps it would not be uninteresting for me to give some account of the manner in which our meetings are conducted.

We meet in our hall once in two weeks upon Saturday evening. The literary part of our exercises consists of essays and an oration. After these we "chip" in as it is called and procure some sort of refreshments or "dorg" as it is elegantly termed by some. While consuming the creature comforts around our table we indulge in "jokes," "stories," "cutes," "drivels," etc., and generally break up our meeting very near the "*wee sma hours*."

Do you have any Beta songs at Hanover? We have only one exclusively so which we obtained from Miami University. It commences:

"Some time ago there was a band
"Of hearts both warm and true, etc."

Have you a copy? If not, please let me know and I will send you one. If you have any good songs of that kind please send them along in your next.

I have written to the Presiding Chapter several times in regard to publishing a catalogue and have learned in reply that it was the opinion of most of the chapters that owing to the fact that so many of our Southern Chapters were broken up by the war it would not be advisable to issue a Catalogue the present year. I hope however this accursed rebellion will be so far subdued that we can do so at some time during the next year.

There seems to be some confusion in regard to the place of holding the Biennial Convention. The choice of Lambda would be Mammoth Cave if it were possible to meet there. But owing to the disturbed condition of Kentucky and the proximity of Mammoth Cave to Secessia at our last meeting it was voted that we were in favor of changing the locality to Indianapolis, Indiana. What the decision of the other chapters will be I cannot yet say. If, however, there is any change I will try and let you know.

From your letter I inferred that the Beta Theta Pi was the only college fraternity at Hanover. Is such the case? If so, you will have a long and hard struggle with Barbs and Profs; but I have no fears of the result.

CURRAN A. DEBRULER, INDIANA, TO GEORGE F. HIPPARD,
HANOVER.

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA, June 1, 1862.

I had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Moses F. Dunn a few days since, and he informs me that you have a large chapter at your college, a piece of information quite new to us. I am only too happy to find that such is the case, and I call your attention to the following names of corresponding secretaries.

A, Oxford, Ohio, David S. Tappan.

B, Hudson, O., Theo. Y. Gardner.

Γ, Canonsburg, Pa., E. S. McMurtrie.

Θ, Delaware, O., H. Wren. Presiding.

Ξ, Galesburg, Ill., O. N. Pitcher.

Σ, Jacksonville, Ill., Albert F. Hale.

Τ, Crawfordsville, Ind., John A. Finch.

Ω, Newport, R. I., R. Steele Ryors, U. S. Ship Santee.

Fire a broadside into all these, and you will get answers.
Write to Theta for all information in regard to Beta matters.

HENRY P. AYRES, KNOX, TO JOHN C. YOUNKEN, HANOVER,

GALESBURG, ILLINOIS, June 7, 1862.

We have received no communication from your chapter the present college year and have been unable until lately to learn the name of your Corresponding Secretary. Yesterday, however, we received a letter from Lambda which gave us your name and stated that your chapter had been in trouble with the faculty.

Being anxious to hear about your condition and prospects from yourself I determined to write to you at once. We sympathize with you in your difficulties inasmuch as until two years ago, when a change was made, the president of our institution was bitterly opposed to every kind of secret societies. We were compelled to keep the existence of our organization a profound secret and to conduct our matters very cautiously. Now however, we carry everything before us like "a thousand of bricks." We have but seven members in college at present—as our institution is thinly attended owing to the war and the hard times and we are determined to admit none but those who have the true

Greek spirit in them. Still with so few members we have splendid times occasionally. We celebrated our anniversary in the spring by a public exhibition which we may say without egotism was a decided success. I enclose the programme from which you can judge something of the nature of our exercises.

We also make out to take most of the college honors which are of any value. As an instance I may state that out of four speakers elected for a prize rhetorical exhibition at the end of the year three are Betas.

Now, Brother, write to us at once and let us know how you get on. We shall be glad to hear from you. And if any of your members ever happen in the neighborhood of Galesburg let them be sure to call on us and we will endeavor to entertain them as well as we can.

DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO, TO E. H. GUTHRIE, OHIO.

CAMP CHASE, O., June 16, 1862.

There are nearly thirty Betas in Camp, from Hudson, Delaware and Oxford. I tell you we have a good time. The whole of Beta Chapter is here. The Chapter at Camp Chase is "Beta in the Field." To meet such Betas as we have here "is bliss begun below."

L. H. SWORMSTEDT, OHIO WESLEYAN, TO E. H. GUTHRIE, OHIO.

DELAWARE, O., June 25, 1862.

Owing to uncontrollable circumstances at this late date, I take up my pen to inform you in regard to the Convention. Having heard from most of the chapters, Dayton is chosen as the place for the next Convention. This chapter however, thinks that it would be far better, considering the unsettled state of the country, to postpone it for one year. Can you send the expression of your chapter about this immediately. If a majority favor the suggestion, we will send the result to you at once.

L. O. THOMPSON, BELOIT, TO JEFF B. CLAYTON, OHIO.

BELOIT, WIS., September, 15, 1862.

As I presume you are the corresponding secretary of Kappa,

I write to inform your Chapter of the success and welfare of Betaism in our Institution. Chi numbers twenty members, who by their worth and good qualities will, I trust, prove themselves worthy members. Of these four graduated last year with three of the highest honors of our Alma Mater. These are the first graduates Chi has sent forth.

We have left ten active members. The rest are serving in the Federal Armies. As Chi is the only Secret Society in College, we have a good range for selection. None but a favored few, who show themselves true and capable, are admitted to membership.

If by this means we cannot build up a good Society, one that will reflect honor upon the association of Chapters—it will not be our fault. As we were not represented at the Biennial Convention, will you have the kindness to transmit such information respecting its action, as will be for our advantage to know. We omitted to appoint delegates and of course were not represented. I regret this all the more, as it was simply the result of carelessness, and not for inability. We are much interested in the "union" of "Beta" with the other lodge, and should be glad to learn what action was taken about it by the Biennial Convention. Whatever that decision may be we will cheerfully submit to it as being done for the best interests of our cherished Beta. Of course we have a preference; but it shall weigh as nothing compared with the general interest of all.

The attendance at school this year is about the same as usual, although we are much affected by the Civil War, which this most unholy rebellion has brought upon us. Of 27 or 28 who were admitted to the Freshman Class last commencement but 18 have returned, the rest having enlisted. To be sure this is quite a loss, but for our country's sake, I am glad that Beloit, is so well represented in the Union Forces. Of the sixty Alumni of Beloit College, there is not a single one whose heart is not true to the stars and stripes.

I will send you a catalogue of our Institutions as soon as published, with the names of the Betas marked. Will you have the kindness to do the same? Have you a list of the Corresponding Secretaries for the coming year? If so will you transmit me a copy?

I should perhaps say that my predecessor received a communication from Brother Blair, which he wished me to answer; but as he omitted to do it himself, I thought it would properly devolve on me to answer it, and so have written to you instead. Brother F. B. Hunt with the subscriber are the Corresponding secretaries of Chi.

O. H. PITCHER, KNOX, TO E. H. GUTHRIE, OHIO.

GALESBURG, ILLS., October 7, 1862.

We do not, at our college and Chapter find so many faces this year as there were last year. Many of the old ones having shouldered their muskets and gone to war, while but few new ones show themselves, for the same reason. But, we are consoled by the reflection, that if there must be a war in the country, the students, and especially the Greeks, must have a hand in it and a "good hand too." Galesburg and the adjacent country were pretty well warmed up during the excitement, just before the time when it was anticipated there would be need of draft. During that time, one of our "shining lights" H. P. Ayres, parted from us and is now in the 77th Ills. Vols. Two others of our old members, Craig and Latimer, are in the three months' service, but will probably be mustered out in about two weeks, when, if there is no urgent need for new troops, they will, according to present accounts, return. It is no easy thing to be a Greek at Knox, and there is no danger of our being permitted to sleep at our posts. Every measure, which we wish to carry has to be fought through against a large opposition with the most untiring perseverance. It sometimes astonishes outsiders, and especially to see what success is gained by the determined, united efforts of a small minority against so large a majority.

THOMAS CHERRINGTON, OHIO WESLEYAN, TO E. H. GUTHRIE,
OHIO.

DELAWARE, O., December 16, 1862.

We are pleased to learn of the prosperous condition of Kappa. Prof. McCabe was a member of that chapter. He is still a true Beta. He met with us the last time and gave us a very

nice little speech. Our Chapter is flourishing finely. Not so many in number as at former times, but boys of the first stamp. I know nothing about the society you spoke of. I have made some inquiries but can learn nothing. I presume the long talked union with the Psi U will be deferred until next convention, when the question can be thoroughly canvassed.

LEONIDAS H. SWORMSTEDT, OHIO WESLEYAN, TO JOHN A. KELLAR, HANOVER.

DELAWARE, OHIO, January 16th, 1863.

Yours of the 9th of last November, came to my hand last Monday through Brother Fleming and now I take my pen to inform you that you are mistaken about being the presiding chapter as you cannot but see that from the following clause in the Constitution that we are still the presiding chapter.

Constitution of the Beta Theta Pi. Art. 2d. Sec. 2d.

"There shall be a presiding chapter chosen at each Biennial Convention, which shall be the depository of particular information, etc."

Since last hearing from you, we received a letter from a Mr. Ryors of Rhode Island asking for the privilege of establishing a chapter at the U. S. Naval Academy in Newport. It promises to be a number one chapter and to be composed of number one material. Mr. Ryors is a talented man and comes highly recommended by Pi. We wish you to take action promptly upon the matter and let us know your action. As far as we have heard from the different chapters, all except Beta have given their hearty consent. Address E. V. Wells or H. Wren our newly-elected corresponding secretaries.

A list of Corresponding Secretaries.

Alpha-Oxford, O., David S. Tappan.

Beta-Hudson, O., Theo. Y. Gardner.

Gamma-Canonsburg, Pa., E. L. McMurtrie.

Delta-Greencastle, Ind., H. B. Jamison.

Kappa-Athens, O., J. A. Rich.

Lambda-Ann Arbor, Mich., Henry M. Hurd.

Nu-Washington, Pa.

Xi-Galesburg, Ill., O. H. Pitcher.

Pi-Bloomington, Ind., Curran A. DeBruler.

Sigma-Jacksonville, Ill.

Tau-Crawfordsville, Indiana.

Chi-Beloit, Wisconsin., L. O. Thompson.

Psi-Bethany, W. Va., J. L. N. Hunt.

O. H. PITCHER, KNOX, TO THE SECRETARY OF THE OHIO CHAPTER.

GALESBURG, ILLS., February 21, 1863.

We have now in College, without taking into consideration, those who have left this year, five Seniors, nine Juniors, six Sophomores, and fifteen Freshmen. The Academic or Preparatory department contains about forty and the female department about forty, making in all from one hundred to one hundred and twenty. In addition to the regular course, we have a Military Department under the instruction of a very competent man, Major Stanton, who also is our French and German Professor. We have an excellent Faculty, and a College very liberally endowed, and is undoubtedly the best college in Illinois. We need more students, however, and would be very glad to welcome any new ones.

As to Xi Chapter we are getting along very well. Although numbering but six we hold the offices of President and Corresponding Secretary in one of the literary Societies, and Corresponding Secretary and chairman of the Lecture Committee in the other. With this we are pretty well satisfied. Although of course we have to encounter much opposition from the barbarians, still, as the Faculty do not persecute us, we are able to hold our own, and much to the discomfort of the aforesaid gentlemen are considered as *the* boys of the College.

R. STEELE RYORS, NAVAL ACADEMY, TO JOHN A. KELLAR,
HANOVER.

U. S. STEAMSHIP Santee (NEWPORT, R. I.), March 21st, 1863.

I am happy to say in behalf of the chapter here that she returns her hearty thanks for the cordial greeting "Iota" has given.

The chapter here is but young yet and the words of encouragement you have spoken have come to us like a rainbow of promise.

The chapter here is composed of five members four of which are the choice ones from a class of 200. At present we will not take in any more, but in a short time we expect to have a flourishing fraternity here.

There is only one drawback to our happiness. We are a *nameless set* here. I was formerly a member of Pi chapter but now I belong to a chapter which as yet is without a letter.

Is there no way by which we can be christened without waiting for a *convention*?

I suppose you know that the Midshipmen here are gathered from every corner of the Union but still I do not believe that there is a single Midshipman here but has heard of our glorious association and is proud and anxious to become a member.

In this Academy, Westerners stand high upon the lists and especially is Indiana proud of her sons here.

I do not refer to myself as I come from far off New Mexico.

Although the chapter here is young still it is strong in Beta principles, and full of that indescribable feeling which only "Greeks" can feel.

I do not think that Beta Theta Pi will ever regret that a chapter was founded at the U. S. N. A.

In your next please inform me as to the name of the Corresponding Secretary of Kappa at Athens, Ohio. I used to live at that place and I would love above all things to open a correspondence with her.

I see from your letter that the Faculty are oppressing you. In return I advise you to retaliate upon them. Professors should not keep chickens as it might induce some daring student to take one.

This is the motto I sail under "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth."

Betas should always bear a bold front when confronted by Barbarians.

JOHN A. FINCH, WABASH, TO JOHN A. KELLAR, HANOVER.

CRAWFORDSVILLE, IND., May 10, 1863.

Your Beta letter was received last night and as you request

I answer immediately. Our correspondence has to me grown quite pleasant and I am sure the chapter takes the same interest.

Your letter though it has not been read formally to the chapter, (we of course having had no meeting since its receipt) has been read to several and told to the rest. It is out and out a *Beta* letter. I can give it no higher praise than thus to denominate it.

I forget whether I spoke to you in my last of the interest we feel in a Biennial Convention. For fear I did not I will run the risk of repetition and speak now of it. We are by no means satisfied with the course of Θ last year in attempting to keep us from holding a convention. We have never had it explained and I suppose never will. I was τ 's delegate and was detained from attending by the "fortune of war" being cut off at Cumberland Gap. Had this not occurred I should have made strenuous efforts at the time to unravel the mystery. We are decidedly firm in our desire for a convention and are much rejoiced to find you also strong and ready to work for it too. We will be truly obliged to you if you carry out your plan. The spirit shown in the sentence quoted from Θ is outrageous and breathes anything but a true Beta love. She has no right to thus thwart the will of a whole organization and the attempted exercise of such power will result sadly for her. Brother Winters, an old and highly respected corresponding secretary of A, last year wrote me then that in his mind there was a suspicion that Θ was worked by a counter society. I must confess I have often felt there was too much room thus to think. This, I well know, is a grave subject, but I speak with *that* in mind. I hope most earnestly that they may see the error of their way, and give the Society at large an opportunity to express itself. I wrote last week to Theta using as mild terms as the subject would allow saying though that in our opinion the necessity for a Convention was imperative—that we must "do or die." I have as yet no reply. I shall attend the convention if held on the moon as I told Brother DeBruler of Pi. Our wish like yours is for Indianapolis. I could enlarge *ad infinitum* but we feel so nearly alike on the subject that I would but say what has probably been said in your meetings often, I therefore leave the matter hopefully though.

Your meeting must have been at once pleasant and sad—

pleasant, because of the genial flow of minds in the same channel is always so, sad because it was the last "it may be for years, it may be forever." There is much in the condition of the two chapters that is alike. We now number but seven. After commencement there will remain four. Three stand on the threshold of College with faces turned outward, and will soon step into the busy scenes of a life battle, the morning twilight of which already begins to appear. Two go into Law, the third goes back to the Army. Tau will have four to keep alive her power. Iota you say will have but three. Numerically we will be nearly equal. If the conscription takes effect there may not be that number even. I need not speculate on so unpleasant a subject as the possible suspension of either, let the future tell. *Nous Verrons*. Truly the joys, the poetry of College life have never been told and never can be. The influence of the mystic circle in making college pleasant is by no means small. Everyone who has taken the Beta pledge must feel the truth and beauty of what you said of this.

Our commencement is July 1st. When is yours? It is with the earnest hope that it will be accepted that I extend to Pi the "hospitalities" of Tau. Brothers, we will be pleased to meet any or all of you. Magniloquent speech will be heard, etc. We invite your presence. We expelled an old member the other day for the terrible offense of turning Mormon, deserting his wife and "going to England" Milford B. Shipp formerly of Edinburgh, Ind. Better take warning and go some place more prosperous for Betas.

JOHN A. FINCH, WABASH, TO JOHN A. KELLAR, HANOVER.

FRANKLIN, IND., May 26th, 1863.

I am called home by the death of an infant idolized brother; justice to you demands a line though it come from a heavy heart.

Your letter received the close attention of Tau but we fear we cannot get a Convention. Delta votes "no." Theta, I fear, has stalemated the movement. At least four chapters have voted "no" and will probably refuse to send delegates. I see not what we can do further. I have written two as strong letters as I could write to Theta but am without a reply. Her course is any-

thing but honorable to her. Can you give us any cheering word? The thanks of the Society at large are due you for your exertions. I am hoping you may have heard something favorable.

ALONZO G. JONES, INDIANA ASBURY, TO JOHN A. KELLAR, HANOVER.

GREENCASTLE, IND., June 1, 1863.

Being elected corresponding secretary of Delta it becomes my pleasant duty to answer your very welcome letter received by my predecessor a few days ago. I hardly need tell you that our chapter is pleased to hear of the prosperity of Iota. Wherever our glorious fraternity has planted a standard *there* we hear of success attending their every effort. If honors are to be obtained at all they are reserved for our noble band. Her proud and majestic march cannot but command respect; and though "the barbarous hordes revile," she *must* and *will* enjoy the esteem even of her bitterest enemies, who are of course principally confined to other Secret Societies. Who can look over the catalogue of the illustrious names of those who have done so much honor to our order without being convinced of its dignity and sterling worth?

As I have but lately been regenerated by the spirit of "old Wooglin" (you have heard of him, no doubt, but I don't know how to spell his name,) or in other words, initiated into the "Golden Mysteries of Beta Theta Pi." I cannot refrain from expressing my fond attachment to the institution; and verily I can say that "Her ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are peace."

That the Grecian flames should in these times of national strife be kept blazing upon the altars of her secret shrines and that the influence of the "Greek Spirit" is most powerfully at work all over the land despite the terrible commotion of our stricken country is an evidence and a very pleasing one of its strength and its devotion to the cause in which it is enlisted.

Our chapter, pardon, my abruptness, had at first decided against holding a convention this year, but, upon maturer reflection and deliberation, reconsidered the subject, and we now give our vote in favor of one next August at Indianapolis.

JOHN A. FINCH, WABASH, TO JOHN A. KELLAR, HANOVER.

CRAWFORDSVILLE, IND., June 8th, 1863.

I returned to College Saturday night and found your cheering letter awaiting me. The mail on the same night brought your favor of the 4th. I, and the whole chapter as well, feel deeply obliged to you for numerous and interesting communications. I have it to regret that I have not been able to merit for Tau these favors. The time of preparation for the last days of the Class of '63 has been so encroached upon by various other duties that I fear greatly I have not done my full duty to the Beta Theta Pi. However, what is done is done, and now cannot be bettered.

We rejoice with you that the prospects for our Convention are so flattering. I see not, with the approval of so many chapters, how it can fail, especially if Theta will do her duty at this late hour. My last to that chapter did not seem to give them any very great consolation on their course in reference to the Convention. Their Corresponding Secretary felt constrained to answer it. He has not a bit of blood and thunder at me for anything I may have said. I rather looked for something of the kind. He gives their reasons at length, why a convention should not be held, but closes in a very gratifying expression, *vis*: "But if most of the chapters urge the holding of a convention we will do all in our power to make it what a convention of Betas ought to be." Verily, verily, I think we may convert them entirely by another effort or two.

I like the spirit they now manifest and really hope to have their hearty support yet. I look on the Convention now as one of the inevitables, unless perchance the delegates may be "drafted into the Army." Again allow me to thank you in the name of Tau and indeed our whole fraternity for the untiring activity you have displayed for the best interests of the beloved order.

The boys had a glorious supper while I was away of which they never tire of talking, how one ate a half-bushel of peanuts, another a mountain of ice-cream, and another several gallons of strawberries. It was a gay and festive time without doubt. We have in our circle such a unanimity of feeling that a good time comes without any effort whenever we get together, whether we have provided for the "inner man" or not. Of late we wind up

with "pon honor." Everything revealed is regarded as sacred and *everything must* be told. Those of the circle who have had any "experience among the petticoats" have to bleed pretty thoroughly. It is rare fun to hear these confessions, though the victim sometimes "can't see it." Many are the pleasures that never can be told that will live in the memory long after the circle that saw them is broken and scattered. Though no champagne sparkles on our board, wit and humor and pleasantry flashes out promiscuously. Peanuts we find are at times *a sine qua non*. The boys get ravenous for them, and by the way we have two or three whose capacity for this nut is so prodigious that we are ready to back them against the world in wading through a pile of them. We know they cannot be beaten, but if you feel that Iota is not slow in this line, and would like to try the experiment we are willing to go our piles (i. e. peanuts, not greenbacks) on the result.

I have sometimes thought while reading letters from various chapters that there was but one real good whole souled chapter of B @ II in existence, but that every Beta thought his was that chapter. It is one of the beautiful things of the order that such a feeling is everywhere engendered. It is the "no place like home" feeling. Once felt in its fullness it is never forgotten.

I regret sincerely that I cannot attend your Commencement on the 18th., but situated as I am it is simply impossible. Tau will welcome any of you who can come with her "heart of hearts." You have the advantage of us, having your commencement two weeks earlier. Surely some of you can visit us, can't you?

You make slight mistake as to the Commencement Miss Alice of Franklin will attend. It is the commencement of *Wabash College* not Hanover. I have the "documents on it." I sympathize with any or all who intended making or improving her acquaintance. Our commencement is on the first of July. The *Signors* usually lie around college at least a week after getting the invaluable sheepskin so that I fear I shall not be at Franklin on the 4th. I will certainly get home the week following and shall be most happy to meet you.

HAMILTON J. DUNBAR, INDIANA ASBURY, TO THE MIAMI CHAPTER.

GREENCASTLE, IND., November 22, 1863.

As Corresponding Secretary of Delta, I take occasion to address you and assure you that we still are prosperous and entertain the highest regards for Delta's esteemed sister "Alpha." On our list is the name of David S. Tappan as your Corresponding Secretary. Does he still act in that capacity?

Our chapter consists of only four this term, but they are jolly fellows and our meetings are pleasant and full of spirit. We intend to remain four and let the chapter die, rather than admit any one whom we do not consider just right. There are not many here this year that will even do to *think* of as Greeks. Do you not consider this the proper spirit? Our principal opponents the Phi Gamma Deltas make bold dashes occasionally and take in men that lend them no strength whatever, only the force of members. Now and then, they reap the fruits of hasty and inconsiderate initiations. Contest election is at hand, and partizanship is raging. They seem to care only that they may carry their tickets at elections. They are organized for that purpose, and quite often take in a miserable chap with a view of gaining his influence. We endeavor to keep the institution pure and go on a performance also, when desirable. I do not think there is entire harmony at present among their own men. This, of course, they endeavor to conceal.

The following chapters have been heard from: Pi, Indiana, B. Sheeks; Tau, Wabash, R. B. F. Pierce; Theta, Ohio Wesleyan, José O. Rice.

Our institution, is quite full, but there is little timber calculated for Greeks. Have you thought any of a convention this year? Let us hear from you soon.

R. M. MILLER, HANOVER, TO "ANY MEMBER OF BETA THETA PI,"
ATHENS, O.

HANOVER, IND., November 23, 1863.

After a long silence of which perhaps we are the ones to blame "Iota" has conferred upon me the honor as well as pleasure of opening a communication with you.

Iota is composed of a small band of seven, four Seniors, two Juniors, and one Sophomore, but all "Strong in the Faith" and notwithstanding the clamorings of the "barbarians" we are a happy band. A short time since we received a letter from Lambda suggesting the propriety of holding a convention soon. Iota gave her vote for holding the same on the last Wednesday in December, at Indianapolis, where it was appointed to have been convened, some two years since, but the war breaking out, it did not meet. Lambda also informed us that there are some young gentlemen at the New York Free Academy who wish to establish a chapter of Beta Theta Pi, at that place and, they having good recommendations, Iota has voted in the affirmative.

Will you please give us the names of the Corresponding Secretary of each chapter so far as you are informed?

J. E. MOFFATT, INDIANA, TO R. M. MILLER, HANOVER.

BLOOMINGTON, IND., November 26, 1863.

Yours of the 21st was received yesterday and today I thank the Lord that I am permitted to answer it. As today is Thanksgiving we have no college.

Our chapter (II) is in a very prosperous condition with good prospects for the future. We number eight.

Bro. R. S. Ryors of the Naval Academy is with us at present. Also Bro. Hoggatt of Delta Chapter. He is attending the Law School and will be with us all winter.

We have initiated two of the above named this term one last night, Hopkins and Given, and both seem very worthy to be Greeks.

One of the members of our chapter (J. H. Marshall) is attending college at Williams College, Mass., and desires to found a chapter there. There was one there (Iota prime) several years ago. One of the faculty was a member of that chapter and is in favor of having another founded. There are over two hundred students in attendance and among them are some very fine fellows, at least Marshall says there are, and we think he is well qualified to judge, being one of Pi's most worthy members. We have written to Theta in regard to the matter and asked her to present it to the chapters. If she has not written you, you would

confer a great favor on us by writing to her immediately giving her your consent. You will find the name of her corresponding secretary below. We shall probably wait for some further developments before we vote to establish a chapter in New York Free Academy. In regard to our Biennial Convention we wrote to Theta at the first of the term requesting her to have it held at Indianapolis, Christmas next. She objected to holding it till the third term but was in favor of the above named place. Our vote is for the same place any time this college year. We have heard from several of the chapters and most of them are in favor of next summer as the time of holding the convention.

J. BARNES ROOT, MICHIGAN, TO E. H. GUTHRIE, OHIO.

ANN ARBOR, MICH., December 9, 1863.

We have corresponded with most of the chapters and find them all, so far as heard from, in favor of a convention but not agreed as to place; some preferring Indianapolis and others Ann Arbor, so we propose that all the chapters write to Theta and request her to call a convention at Indianapolis on the last Wednesday in January 1864, and should she refuse, as she did two years ago, that we go on the same and hold it at that time and place for there is important business which must be brought before the fraternity. Theta has had command a little longer than we can stand. She has not informed us of a single Corresponding Secretary this year nor has she discharged to us a single one of her duties, in fact she has not even written us. The Corresponding Secretaries as far as I have heard from are as follows:

Will H. Hilles, Miami; José O. Rice, Ohio Wesleyan; J. E. Moffat, Indiana; H. B. Jamison, Indiana Asbury; O. H. Pitcher, Knox; James A. Kellar, Hanover, and Chas. L. Cutler, Western Reserve.

Please let us hear from you often, keep bright the brotherly chain that binds.

HAMILTON J. DUNBAR, INDIANA ASBURY, TO WM. H. FULLENWIDER, HANOVER.

GREENCASTLE, IND., Jan. 17th, 1864.

Delta was certainly pleased to hear from her honored sister

Iota. Excuse us for not making the early reply which your letter merited and believe that we will be more prompt in the future.

We are not astonished to know that you have stood unmoved and uninjured by the terrible opposition offered to you and through the vile and insolent barbarians with whom you say your college to be infested. We hope you will keep us informed as to your prosperity.

Delta numbers four only—but all joyous, true Greeks, never tiring in the good work of exterminating Barbarian influence.

The result of the coming anniversary election is doubtful, as you know the almost sole object of this organization known as the Phi Gamma Delta is to carry elections. To promote this aim they will take in many and very sour, weak chaps. Of course we would like to succeed at the election and will make every exertion so to do yet this is a secondary matter, when compared with the nobler purposes and influences of our esteemed order.

James H. Marshall has written from Williams College desiring the foundation of a chapter there. Recommendations being excellent and farther impelled by the hope of gaining a foothold in the East, Delta casts her vote in favor of said chapter. If you have not done so heretofore Beta desires you to forward your opinion soon. I send you letters, which we received from Brother Rice at Delaware. They will explain themselves. Something is evidently wrong at Beloit and Delta along with many other chapters, has determined to oppose their being allowed a constitution. Please send these letters to some other chapter directing them "to do likewise," but to let them be returned to Theta before the end of the year.

JOSE O. RICE, OHIO WESLEYAN, TO WILLIAM H. FULLENWIDER,
HANOVER.

DELAWARE, OHIO, January 30th, 1864.

I have been so much engaged in other matters lately that it begins to appear as if I did not feel particularly desirous of seeing the Fraternity which has honored me with membership, flourish. Such is not the case. I can very well comprehend the

objects of our order and full well appreciate its beneficent influence. With the first opportunity that presents itself to me I engage the fleeting moments to send you this short business note.

We have nine votes in favor of a Convention thus far, constituting the majority of those chapters I have heard from. Six votes are for holding it at Indianapolis. It seems that the day suggested by all is never the same. Some will have it one month and others another. The most convenient appears to me to be the second or third Tuesday in July next. If your college closes about this time it will be quite expedient for you.

The vote for establishing a chapter at Williamstown, Mass., is in the minority yet. You will favor us with the intention of your chapter on this point. Brother Marshall is from Pi and thinks that our Order can be extended in that direction with safety.

We are opposed to the establishment of a Chapter at the Free Academy in New York City. We should not seek to found chapters at inferior institutions. Let us stick to Colleges.

The affair at Beloit remains in *statu quo* to be referred to the convention. We can not entrust a copy of our constitution to a man who has no excuse to offer for the destruction of another. If it was destroyed by a "strange fatality" let us feel sure he is not worthy of further attention.

JOSÉ O. RICE, OHIO WESLEYAN, TO WESLEY O. YOUNG, OHIO.

DELAWARE, OHIO, February 11, 1864.

I have important matters to communicate to all the chapters. You know that we, Theta, constitute the Presiding Chapter. If you should ever hear of a convention, it will be through us. Any notice by any other chapter cannot be valid. We record the votes and will inform the chapters of the result. Thus far, we have nine votes for the convention to be held in July next at Indianapolis, constituting already a majority. You must send your vote early and tell me whether you prefer the second or third Tuesday in July next.

There is a point on which I wish to speak to you also. Brother Marshall, formerly from Pi Chapter desires to establish a chapter at Williams College, Mass. You must inform yourselves about this and send your vote.

We are opposed to establishing a chapter at the Free Academy in New York as some chapters have informed me there was a gentleman wished to do so.

Our members now are: E. T. Wells, L. W. Ford, José O. Rice, L. W. Brown and O. A. Brown.

You will please write soon and give me the result of your consultation with the other members in reference to the Convention.

Clippinger attended our University here. I think he is a worthy young man although I do not know why when he attended here he did not become a member of a secret association. Be careful that he does not belong to another Fraternity. He may be a Σ X.

JOSÉ O. RICE, OHIO WESLEYAN, TO WESLEY O. YOUNG, OHIO.

DELAWARE, O., March 1, 1864.

I merely write you this note to bring before your notice the propriety of establishing a chapter at Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa. Wilbur from Hudson has written to me about it saying that they sent a delegate to inquire as to the merits of those who wish to establish and reports favorably. I see no objection to do so and when we see so many of our once flourishing chapters disappearing from among our brotherhood, we must endeavor to repair loss by additional material. Please write as soon as your chapter takes your vote.

According to the number of votes, we have recorded, a convention will surely take place. We wish to know if you object to the third Tuesday in July. I named the second, but to accommodate chapter Beta who have no vacation before that time, I changed to the third. I want the convention to be interesting and desire all chapters to be represented.

Are you in favor of founding a chapter at Williams College, Mass.? We know nothing more than that Marshall is from Pi and is well recommended.

JOSÉ O. RICE, OHIO WESLEYAN, TO WESLEY O. YOUNG, OHIO.

DELAWARE, OHIO, MARCH 17, 1864.

In reference to the Chapter established at Meadville, Penna.,

in Allegheny College. I may say that the founder himself is worthy of the trust he wishes to receive at our hands. He was formerly a member of this Chapter and is an excellent fellow. Besides, Brother Wilbur of Hudson tells me that this chapter sent a delegate to Meadville to obtain information about the chapter and has reported favorably. Knox, the founder, he says is among the highest in his class. He wrote us a letter a few days ago and is anxious to bring out his new flock which Beta Chapter judges it to be of excellent quality. I am confident that nothing amiss will result from establishing a chapter there.

I expect your vote soon for the establishment of the chapter at Meadville. Excuse haste.

FRED S. HANFORD, WESTERN RESERVE, TO WILLIAM H. FULLEN-
WIDER, HANOVER.

HUDSON, O., March 18th, 1864.

This is the first time that I have had the honor of being elected corresponding secretary of our chapter having been lately received into the bonds of Beta Theta Pi. I must beg your pardon for not being able to answer any questions or suggestions that your last letter may have contained—that is, on the supposition that you wrote us last—since the secretary who preceded me is at home sick and has all answered correspondence with him.

Beta enjoys her usual prosperity—she is not of the dying sort; we do not permit her light to “light out.” At the beginning of this term we initiated two freshmen—one perfectly blind, but a good scholar and fine sociable fellow well worthy the honor of being received “to share our joys,” which addition swells our number to thirteen—about as many as we wish. Beta Theta Pi—ism is now popular here. Even the young ladies (and we have some capital nice ones here) side with us, and you know that they sway the popular heart, at least of students. The result of which is that there are quite a few *hanging around* greatly desirous of seeing glory or, in other words, our hall. We have matters about all our own way, and our rivals (the Alpha Delta Phis) are compelled to endeavor to make *headway* against a strong *breeze* of popular feeling in favor of us—certainly a de-

sirable condition to be in, if it does not make us too confident and careless.

At our last meeting we fixed upon the third Tuesday in July (the 19th) as our choice of the time for holding the Biennial Convention and Indianapolis as the place. It is very, and indeed imperatively, necessary that our convention be held this summer especially since we have not had the Biennial for *four* years. There are many affairs, to omit which longer would be not only unwise but injurious, and which can only be settled by a convention. We *must* hold it, and soon too, to put a stop to many abuses, which permitted to exist longer, cannot but permanently injure the best interests of our order.

It may be well to state why we have chosen the time that we did, for holding the convention. Our Commencement here does not take place until Thursday, July 14th, (the Thursday after the second Tuesday): and no member of our chapter feels disposed to leave college before the end of the term so as to represent us in convention, especially since we intend to send a Senior—*when* the convention is held. Some chapters have designated the latter part of June or the very first of July as their choice of the time, but for the above reason, such a time does not suit us at all. Immediate action must be taken in the matter and votes concerning time and place must be instantly sent into Theta, or another summer will go by without a convention. When you write, please tell us Iota's choice of time and place.

You have probably heard of the project of founding a chapter of our fraternity at Meadville, Pa. What does Iota think about it? W. W. Knox is the brother, who wishes to found the chapter at Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa. He wrote to the presiding chapter a short time ago, but Theta seemed to take so little interest and acted so slowly in the matter, that he wrote us, requesting us to agitate the question. We did not wish to favor the project until we knew more positively about the matter than we could ascertain by letter, therefore our love for Beta Theta Pi and desire for the extension of her power induced us to send a brother from our chapter to Meadville—about 125 or 150 miles from here—at our own expense, to ascertain the prospects. On his return, Brother Williamson reported affairs as most favorable and advantageous. The college is in good stand-

ing. There is nothing there to oppose us, except two or three *one horse* chapters of one horse secret societies. Brother Knox, who wishes to found the chapter, is able and active—formerly belonged to Theta Chapter—and has already “in tow” four and perhaps six good students and good fellows, all ready to initiate as soon as he shall have been granted the permission of the chapters. Our brother that we sent to Meadville saw most of these students and says they are the right sort. If you wish to know more about the matter before coming to a decision, write me and I will endeavor to inform you. Please act in the matter as soon as you can, and send in your vote to Theta, since it is of course important that we decide the affair as soon as possible.

As to the founding a chapter at Williams College by Brother Marshall, we are decidedly opposed to it. We had a chapter at that college once and it “went out.” Our society being almost entirely a Western institution and there being so much and so powerful opposition at these large Eastern colleges, Beta deems it unadvisable to endeavor to get a foothold there. Our attempt at Newport, R. I., in the Naval academy was a great failure, as you know and there was no opposition secret society at all.

JOSE O. RICE, OHIO WESLEYAN, TO WILLIAM H. FULLENWIDER,
HANOVER.

DELAWARE, OHIO, April 22, 1864.

You have not written us for some time and as you are to succeed us I believe as presiding chapter we are very solicitous of your welfare. We hope nothing has happened that might tend to injure your prospects, this, however, cannot be even suspected of any chapters of B Θ II since every one thus far intimates with a marked degree of pleasure that they compose the most flourishing chapters of all those antagonistic about them existing in their University.

You are aware perhaps that the next Biennial Convention will take place at Indianapolis on the third Tuesday in July next. The vote is unanimous and all we have to do now is to meet there at the appointed time. In selecting Indianapolis we have taken into consideration first the convenience for all the chapters to meet there as a central point. As we have chapters in Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana no states are

more central than Indiana and Ohio. No one who has been at Indianapolis will feel in the least disappointed at what he naturally expects of a city, and surely a meeting here, a reunion of Betas, cannot be but most agreeable.

Theta sends greeting to Iota that she is in a very flourishing condition. In fact we are in a condition I may justly say enviable. Enviably because we are at the head of the five other secret societies we have to contend with. We may say the order in which these are is as follows: B Θ Π, Σ X, Φ K Ψ, Α Δ Ξ, Α Γ Δ.

They cannot bear the slightest comparison with B Θ Π.

Our members are: H. Wren, Mechanicsville, O., Law, E. J. Wells, Delaware, O., Law, L. M. Ford, Morrow, O., Law, J. W. Mendenhall, Hamilton, O., Law, E. R. Sullivan, Zanesville, O., Ministry, C. H. Zimmerman, Delaware, O., Ministry, J. O. Rice, Parral, Chihuahua, Mexico, Medicine, J. C. Rusk, Fultonham, O., L. W. Brown, Cincinnati, O., Law, O. A. Brown, Delaware, O., Law, J. C. Evans, Delaware, O., Law.

The first six are seniors, the next junior, the next sophomore and the last three freshmen.

Lest I may not have sent you the name of the Corresponding Secretaries from whom I have heard thus far, I herewith enclose them hoping you will send others I may not have heard from:

Α W. H. Winters, Oxford, Ohio.
 Β P. A. Wilbor, Hudson, Ohio.
 Γ E. L. McMurtrie, Canonsburg, Pa.
 Δ H. J. Dunbar, Newcastle, Ind.
 Ι W. O. Young, Hanover, Ind.
 Α J. B. Root, Ann Arbor, Mich.
 Ν E. W. Hoge, Washington, Pa.
 Σ O. E. Pitcher, Galesburg, Ill.
 Η J. E. Moffatt, Bloomington, Indiana.
 Τ R. F. B. Pierce, Crawfordsville, Ind.

These are all I have heard from. You will please write soon as to your chapter's action respecting the foundation of a chapter at Meadville, Pa. I can assure you that there is nothing

that should make us hesitate in founding it. Knox is a Beta and a very worthy young fellow. Your vote for Williams is recorded, but as not three-fourths of the chapters have sent in their vote we cannot take any action.

JOSÉ O. RICE, OHIO WESLEYAN, TO WESLEY O. YOUNG, OHIO.

DELAWARE, O., April 23, 1864.

We have been looking for yours in answer to our last soliciting your vote for a chapter about to be established at Meadville, Pa. Until now six votes have been cast in favor of it. There is nothing to check us from taking a course favorable to the solicitations of Brother Knox. He is a worthy Theta and this chapter is confident of his ability to found a chapter worthy the name of B Θ II.

You may be aware that the presiding chapter has decided upon having Indianapolis as the place where, and the third Tuesday in July next, as the time when, the Convention will be held. The vote for holding it is unanimous and all we are to do is to attend it. And here I may remark that you should appoint as large a body of delegates as possible. By all means send a representative. We are only twelve chapters and we must endeavor to make our next convention as interesting as possible, specially when we consider that we have not held a convention for four years.

J. BARNES ROOT, MICHIGAN, TO WESLEY O. YOUNG, O.

ANN ARBOR, MICH., September 13, 1864.

Please inform us of your Corresponding Secretary this year so we may communicate with you. Would write you much in this but that we fear you may have gone to war, or the like, and it would fall into hands of "barbarians." Will you also furnish us a list of the chapters you know to be in existence and their corresponding secretaries, if you know them.

We will furnish you a full list as soon as we receive replies to letters this day mailed each chapter.

Believe me my dear Young to be personally and fraternally, yours.

CHARLES M. THOMPSON, KNOX, TO THE HANOVER CHAPTER.

GALESBURG, ILL., Oct. 4, 1864.

At a late meeting of Xi Chapter, Mr. O. H. Pitcher and myself were appointed corresponding secretaries and I immediately set about the agreeable task of hunting out the corresponding secretaries of several chapters. How well I shall succeed remains to be seen. Yours is, I believe, the presiding chapter and for this reason we are very anxious to learn your status for this year. Brother Hurd of Lambda informs me that he very much fears you will suffer very much from the war if not wholly broken up. I sincerely hope this will not be the case. All have met with severe losses during the last summer. I have noticed that, among college students, Beta boys have taken the lead in the matter. Xi has not been backward. Some from whom we had been expecting most during the present year are now in the ranks, others equally as good but no better (Xi knows no difference in her members) have good positions. We now number four and in spite of cavil and sneers and attempts to put us down we hold our own with the best of them.

J. BARNES ROOT, MICHIGAN, TO WESLEY O. YOUNG, OHIO.

ANN ARBOR, MICH., October 8th, 1864.

We hope you will not forget that subject of historical sketches. Put your best man to the task. Make it a sketch truthful and reliable and at the same time full of wit and fun so that the reading of it may be no uninteresting part of the proceedings at Convention.

Also, would you inform us in regard to number of your members, and new members, and from what class, college honors, class honors and all conditions and character, honorary and resident members, etc., so that we can make reports of different chapters, and thus keep up interest of correspondence and enable the chapters to compare themselves with others. Kappa, we hope, stands among the foremost. God bless her and every one of her noble sons.

Try hard to keep up a high-toned noble-souled moral society, seeking those men whose intellectual and moral worth you are

assured will render them worthy the privilege of Beta. Excel all other societies. Take in none but first class men and thus render your society an object which all will seek.

A. EUGENE MUDGE, MICHIGAN, TO ERLE KELTON, HANOVER.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, October 20th, 1864.

In dividing up the correspondence between Brother Root and myself who are the present corresponding secretaries of Lambda Chapter it fell to my lot to keep up a correspondence with you. Brother Root handed me your letter some two weeks ago to answer. I mention this in order that you may not blame him because you have not heard from us before but that you may attribute it to my negligence.

"Lambda" is in a prosperous condition and stands first (as she always has done) among the secret societies in this college. We took compassion on seven barbarians, led them to see the error of their ways, and took them in to share our "joys," so that at present we have four seniors, two juniors, four sophomores and four freshmen making fourteen acting members besides several in the Law and Medical Departments and several resident graduates. It rather surprised the other societies to see us getting all the best men and seemingly without any exertion on our part. As we swung out one man after another you would hear them exclaiming. "Well, those Beta Theta's are rushing things this year!" implying that we were getting the start of the other societies. I can assure you that we not only have done it *this year* but mean to do it *every year*.

I suppose that you are aware that at our last convention each chapter was instructed to appoint one of its members to write a history of the chapter to be read at our next convention. I think it would be well to see to this as soon as possible, in order that the person chosen may have ample time to collect the necessary facts. We have already appointed one man. It is Lambda's opinion that the history should not be too long so as to be tedious, but should rather be short and "spicy" in order to make our next convention as interesting as possible. We have also thought that it would be well for each chapter to furnish the presiding chapter fuller particulars in regard to itself, what exercises it has at its

meetings, what kind of a hall it has, or anything in relation to its old or present members that may be of common interest in order that we may make our correspondence more interesting. You can act upon this suggestion if it meets with your approbation.

I would give you more particulars in regard to our chapter but I have already spun this letter to such a length that I fear it may be tedious.

I annex a list of the corresponding secretaries of the different chapters as far as we have heard. Those that have not been heard from this year I have given the name of the person who was corresponding secretary last year.

Alpha—Oxford, O., Miami University, John H. Patterson.

Beta—Hudson, O., Western Reserve, Fred S. Hanford.

Gamma—Canonsburgh, Pa., Jefferson College, E. L. McMurtrie.

Delta—Green Castle, Ind., Ind. Asbury, D. G. Hamilton.

Theta—Delaware, O., Ohio Wesleyan, J. O. Rice.

Iota—Hanover, Ind., Hanover College, Erle Kelton.

Kappa—Athens, O., Univ. of Ohio, W. O. Young.

Lambda—Ann Arbor, Mich., Michigan Univ., J. Barnes Root and A. Eugene Mudge.

Nu—Washington, Pa., Washington College, E. W. Hoge.

Pi—Bloomington, Ind., Ind. State Univ., R. Magee.

Xi—Galesburg, Ills., Knox College, Geo. H. Perkins, S. M. Marsh.

Tau—Crawfordsville, Ind., Wabash College, R. B. F. Pierce.

Psi—Bethany, W. Va., Bethany College, J. L. Pinkerton.

D. GILBERT HAMILTON, INDIANA ASBURY, TO ROBERT M. MILLER,
HANOVER.

GREENCASTLE, Nov. 2nd, 1864.

Your kind favor of the 31st is at hand and it furnishes me great pleasure to answer it in my feeble way.

It is the first letter from any regular corresponding secretary that this chapter has received this term. Our worthy presiding chapter at Ann Arbor has not seen fit to forward to us a list of corresponding secretaries and our former secretary has not a list. I have just entered upon the duties of my office and I am in a

dilemma, how I shall proceed. I wrote several weeks since to J. Barnes Root, the corresponding secretary at Ann Arbor, but no answer has been received.

You would be conferring a favor not only to me personally but to Delta Chapter if you would forward all information as regards corresponding secretaries and any other matter which would be of interest to all of us Greeks.

We would be glad to receive the minutes of the convention as we have never received them.

Among us, the fires of brotherly love burn bright. Old Wooglin has not ceased to exert his powerful influence over us. With true Greek love our hearts are prepared to embrace by its sympathy and love all who have the honor to wear the badge and bear the name of Beta Theta Pi. In us, the members of Delta Chapter, you and your chapter as well as all others may expect to find the true and pure Greek spirit.

My poor pen cannot half express the feelings that pervade each and every heart of Delta's members.

I know well how enthusiastic I am to praise our noble order and I feel I have sufficient cause. It may be possible that our chapter is too earnest on this subject but I hope it is not altogether reprehensible. To you and your chapters we send our greetings for this year. May you prosper and grow strong in the faith is but the expressed wish of all of us.

As to our numbers—"we are seven." Seven seems for years to have been our sacred number. Of the seven six of us are attending the University. One of the seven is a young lawyer of the town who always meets with us and now and then cheers our drooping spirits with a speech. Two of our chapter are absent from college but will be back next term. So then we will have nine. Four of us leave this year, three by graduation and one from choice.

The names of the chapter in college are: Hamilton J. Dunbar, Junior; A. F. White, Sophomore; Ferd. C. Iglehart, Sophomore; George Hamilton Sisson, Junior; Alonzo G. Jones, Senior and your humble servant, Senior.

The two absent ones are—Olin R. Brouse, Junior; Henry B. Jamison, Senior.

Our prospects for new ones are limited. We shall probably

take in some three before the year is out, so as to leave seven here. Last year we had on the average only three and at one time we feared that Delta Chapter would die out for want of suitable material and we had determined to let it die rather than take in "Tom, Dick and Harry." Our motto is "the right kind or none." Out of two hundred and sixty-five students we did not see fit to take in but one, Iglehart, and this year we took in one more, White.

With regards to "Dorg" Delta will never yield the victory. Don't I beg of you think me egotistical when I praise so much the merits of Delta. We claim that she cannot be beaten on the "Purp" question—we will say that she can beat any other chapter of equal numbers in devouring that animal and do it too without cultivating the hoggish part of our nature.

I have sat down and watched a dorg vanish with that rapidity that might vie with the quick transmutations we read of in fairy tales. It is over such an article that we pass many of our most pleasant moments. It is over that we see the sparkling that tells of the love we bear to all Greeks. It is there we bring forth the wit from our number. By the by—we have one who unconsciously is somewhat of a wag and over dog he seems to be more than usually witty and through that we fill up a whole night pleasantly.

Our college elections come off tomorrow eve and we expect a lively time and it is Beta or Delta with all the students. Our opposing society, the Phi Gamma Delta, is one whose sole purpose appears to be to carry elections and they take everyone till their numbers double and triple ours. The result has been that we have been beaten for two years.

Tomorrow decides our fate for some three months. We will beat in the end, if not now, for I feel that the Fates will finally side with the right. And I know our cause is right. We are running four of our number for honors and we hope to elect them.

D. GILBERT HAMILTON, INDIANA ASBURY, TO ROBERT MILLER, AT
HANOVER.

GREENCASTLE, INDIANA, November 3, 1864.

Although it is the Sabbath Day, yet I think it would not be

altogether wrong to spend a few moments in communing with a Brother Greek through the medium of the pen. Last night we had a rousing chapter meeting. Two of our old Greeks were with us and with many a speech and interchange of confidence we passed the night. A glorious old "Dorg" was dissected in spite of his continual barkings. Then as is customary with us we had our Beta songs and clasping hands, renewed our pledges of mutual confidence.

The letters we received were read with pleasure, all, save one. That contained intelligence which was like throwing a wet sheet upon a blazing fire. It was from Delaware informing us that Stevens was a member of our fraternity. It told us we must recognize him as one of our number and that as soon as his pin came that they should send it to him. Now we as a chapter appeal to the different chapters as to whether they have the right to thus force upon us a man whom they know nothing of. He was at Delaware three weeks as they say and yet they deemed a three weeks' acquaintance sufficient for entitling him to membership. They say that he was always gentlemanly in his actions when at Delaware. Gentlemanly! As if that was *the* necessary qualification for a Greek! Three weeks' acquaintance! Without any exaggeration I can with safety say that there are two hundred in our college who are better fitted to make Greeks than he is.

He is a gentleman, there is no doubt about that. We here do not go on the principle of taking in a man before we *know* him and we try not only to look at the kind of a heart one has, but also we look at his talents. Thus far we have taken in none which are lower than the Freshman class. This one is even below the "First Preparatory class." One who is but little blessed with sense. Besides he is a decidedly "fast boy." Now don't think that we shun such. We have now and have had those among us who are *hard* but still they are *smart*, and I believe I can truthfully say that they are the smartest in our crowd.

But when you come to have one who without sense and *heart* besides forced upon you it is hard to bear. We strive here to keep up the dignity of our chapter and we command respect both in college and among the citizens. We can with safety say that he would lower our chapter fifty per cent in the eyes of every

one. Now we ask that he be kept "sub rosa" and appeal to all the chapters. I do not care if he doesn't come out with the pin, that must not be—we therefore ask that Theta chapter be notified not to send him his pin. If they will send it to me I will pay for it and keep it myself.

Please let me hear from you when convenient and excuse further remarks for I have many letters to write. The Greek spirit burns with its wonted brightness in Delta but our hearts are saddened when we think of this bug-bear that is following us. We know him well for he was here last year and trained in our crowd. It is no three weeks' acquaintance on our part.

D. GILBERT HAMILTON, INDIANA ASBURY, TO WESLEY O. YOUNG,
OHIO.

GREENCASTLE, IND., November 16, 1864.

A year ago a perfect ignoramus as far as learning is concerned and a horse race driver by profession came from Cincinnati to this place. He entered the lowest class in college and stood poor there. He was here a year. He was and is esteemed by no one, save for his money. He has no intellectual abilities and no Greek heart. He is a gentleman I admit but no other qualification has he. He went to Delaware an entire stranger and Theta Chapter took him in on three weeks' acquaintance and after a week sends him back here for us to affiliate with. We never have taken in any below the Freshman year, and he is three years below. Now, we claim no chapter has the right to pin a man in a college when the chapter there located express their wish that this should not be so. We are in good standing both among the students and among the citizens. If he should come out it would be the ruination of us as a chapter. We appeal to you all that Theta be prohibited from sending him his pin which she informs me she will do soon. Please take this under consideration and let us know soon. Write to Theta about it. The Corresponding Secretary's name is Oliver A. Brown. Our chapter numbers eight and will now send up their united protest to you and request that Wm. Steavens should be kept "Sub Rosa" while here. Don't delay in this matter as delays are dangerous.

JOHN H. PATTERSON, MIAMI, TO WESLEY O. YOUNG, OHIO.

OXFORD, O., December 4, 1864.

There ought to be more circulation between the Chapters, if we wish to carry out the best interest of the fraternity. Have you heard from Beta this year? If so who is their Corresponding secretary? We wish to procure the names of the members taken in since the issue of the last catalogue, and we do not know whom to write to. Also if you know the names of any of the members of the defunct chapters, please send them in. We have at present six true and loyal Greeks. But we will lose two next session as nearly the whole of the Senior class will leave by that time. The most of them will go East. But we hope nevertheless to keep up the standard at old Miami; as we always have done. The material is very poor this year and we would much rather see the Chapter excel in quality than quantity. We have two fraternities here to oppose the $\Delta K E$ and $\Lambda \Delta \Phi$. We would have no difficulty in rushing any man if we had some connection with a society East. Many of our students expect to go East sometime. And they desire to join a society more universal than ours. Although they admit that $B \Theta \Pi$ rules the day in the West. It would strengthen the Fraternity very much if such a connection could be effected. Have you a lodge to meet in? And how many members have you? The $\Delta K E$ concern have a lodge here. But the old hole has been broken into several times. And now their charter, Constitution, Catalogue, and a few days ago their roll book was stolen. Of course we did not take part in such demonstrations but heard of it soon after.

I think that it is very probable that we will have some connection with Psi Upsilon. I saw a young fellow, a Psi from Amherst College. And as he was an intimate friend I spoke to him upon the subject. He was favorably impressed toward the union. He said he had heard it agitated before at Amherst but not to any great extent. If this should be effected then I am for one who not in favor of getting a Catalogue out. Lambda could throw some light upon the subject if she would only condescend to answer some of our letters. She simply said in the first of the session that she was not in favor of getting it out now. Do you ever hear from her? If so what is the name of her Corresponding Secretary?

I am almost afraid that I wrote to the wrong person as I have not received any answer. From your last letter I would suppose that our Fraternity had already given an address to the Psi U. We supposed that the address would be submitted to the next convention before being handed to them. Are you certain of its being given to them? If it has, it may be advisable not to get out the catalogue until we hear from them.

J. BARNES ROOT, MICHIGAN, TO WESLEY O. YOUNG, OHIO.

ANN ARBOR, MICH., December 26th, 1864.

As former corresponding secretary of Lambda I am authorized to notify you that the Lambda chapter of Beta Theta Pi has resigned her charter full reasons for which you find in the resignation forwarded with other papers to Alpha. That nothing but stern necessity and a deep respect for Beta Theta Pi could induce us to take this step permit me, my dear friend, in the name of the former members of Lambda to assure you.

Our best wishes shall ever be with the noble fraternity of which we have so long felt proud. And now you must permit me, sir, to ever be as regards both you and your chapter: Your hearty well-wisher.

FROM THE HANOVER (PRESIDING) CHAPTER TO THE OHIO
CHAPTER, PROBABLY 1864.

The following is a partial list of the corresponding secretaries: Alpha—John H. Patterson; Beta—Fred S. Hanford; Gamma—Leander Woolfolk; Delta—D. G. Hamilton; Theta—William N. Bryant; Iota—Frank Trigg; Kappa—William F. Boyd; Xi—Stephen N. Marsh; Pi—Omer T. Gillett; Omega—J. G. Talbott;

We have ordered Gamma and Nu to consolidate under the name of Gamma.

Write with great care to Omega and direct the Postmaster to return the letter to your address if not called for within ten days. Put no seal on the envelope nor the usual designation "Beta Theta Pi" as you are probably aware that if it should be discovered that there is a chapter at Newport, all the members would be expelled, which would be a more serious matter than the expulsion of students from our common colleges.

Please answer soon and vote on the establishment of a chapter at Monmouth, Illinois.

GEORGE H. PERKINS, KNOX, TO WESLEY O. YOUNG, OHIO.

GALESBURG, ILLS., January 7, 1865.

We of Xi are doing well and carrying off the honors. We have nearly all the highest offices in the literary societies in College, and have no reason to complain, of the manner in which other honors are disposed of. I send you a program of one of our exhibitions which may interest you somewhat.

I presume that you have before this been informed of the outrageous action of Lambda chapter in leaving the B Θ II in a body. In a letter that we received from Ann Arbor she gave no reason but said that she had forwarded them to Alpha. But we have a man here in our chapter who came from Ann Arbor and was a member of Lambda and we learn from him that they have been contemplating a thing of this sort and joining the Psi Upsilon, and there is every reason to believe that this is what they have done.

It is a sad blow to our fraternity thus to lose one of its best chapters. Still we can live and live honorably too without the aid of Lambda.

O. W. SHRYER, HANOVER, TO WESLEY O. YOUNG, OHIO.

HANOVER, IND., January 18, 1865.

I am delegated by Iota to open a correspondence with your chapter to ascertain your opinion with regard to the recent action of Lambda. We learn that Lambda's delegate at the last convention urgently requested that Lambda should be presiding chapter which request was granted. She has now not only thrown up her commission as Presiding Chapter but has also severed her connection with the B Θ II, fraternity. The reason for Lambda's so doing we have not yet learned, but suppose she has done so for the purpose of joining the organization known as the ♣ Y.

We would also ask your chapter to express its willingness for our chapter Iota to be next Presiding Chapter, as we believe we are entitled to it, alphabetically, although Lambda got in ahead of us. Let us hear from you immediately.

JOHN H. PATERSON, MIAMI, TO WESLEY O. YOUNG, OHIO.

OXFORD, OHIO, January 19, 1865.

I wrote to you some time ago and as we have now come to some conclusion, I thought I would write to you again. We received a letter from the old members of Lambda a short time since. And they urged us to assume the power of the Presiding Chapter, and to issue a call for a convention to meet either at Ann Arbor or Detroit in order that they may be enabled to attend in force. We have assumed the power of the presiding chapter and hereby issue a call for a convention to be held at Detroit, Mich., on the first of February, 1865 at the leading Hotel of the place. We request each Chapter to send two delegates, and to register their names as members of B Θ Π. Also to bring the copies of the constitutions possessed by the respective Chapters with them. Don't fail to have a delegate there. And if possible, two. Your delegates and Alphas being not far apart might make an appointment to meet in some place and go on together.

DAVID H. MOORE, OHIO, TO WESLEY O. YOUNG, OHIO.

COLUMBUS, O., January 26th, 1865.

Yours of the 23rd at hand. Have telegraphed you "Revival, Cannot Leave, Particulars by Mail."

My meeting is in its fourth week. Of course, I cannot leave it while such is the case. Should the indications be adverse to its continuance beyond next Monday night, I could go on Tuesday. Perhaps, you can decide.

It would be well to send me a copy of the constitution and the necessary papers, provided you make no arrangements for certain representations. I would like a list of the chapters, designation of their location, etc.

What does the secession of Lambda mean? If it is treason, she ought to be *morganised* or *subjugated*. What advan-

tages does alliance with Zeta Psi promise? What dangers are apprehended from Lambda?

Remember, Kappa, that Betaism is immortal. Her temple may be profaned and destroyed, but her spirit is indestructible.

PHILO A. WILBOR, WESTERN RESERVE, TO JOHN A. KELLER,
HANOVER.

HUDSON, OHIO, February 7th, 1865.

I do not know what you think of us by this time for not writing but we feel very much ashamed to think your letter should have lain so long unanswered. It is not I assure you from wanton neglect, but I have been so very busy this term that I have scarcely had a moment's time to myself and as all my class have gone skating this morning save me I will write a few hurried lines in reply to your letter. Brother Hanford gave me your letter some three weeks ago but the term is a very busy one to us Juniors for our Exhibition comes at its close and we have to prepare our speeches for that august occasion, and I have been almost overwhelmed. We were glad to have heard from any Beta. Perhaps we are partly to blame but I know of no one to write to but you and if you know a single man at Athens or Miami, whether he is corresponding secretary or not, please send me his name and we will write to him. Something ought to be done to awaken a little spirit in our order. As it is we are almost dead and nothing but the stimulus of vigor and earnestness can revive us.

We feel very sad to hear that Lambda has left us for she was by far our most flourishing chapter and we hoped with her as our head to accomplish something but though *few* we are *invincible* and if we work we may accomplish much.

What say you to making Beta presiding Chapter? We have nine strong fellows and are in a flourishing condition financially. We are also in good standing with the Faculty as the President and Professor Young meet with us and aid us. It would be a great objection to having Iota presiding chapter that she must be so very close and secret about her movements. Alpha is too weak to preside. Theta has been tried and found wanting and pitifully. What other place is as well fitted as ours? Something ought to be done! What shall it be? Write us again soon.

JOHN H. PATTERSON, MIAMI, TO THE HANOVER CHAPTER.

OXFORD, O., Feb. 9th, 1865.

I hope you will excuse me for delaying in forwarding the archives. But I will attend to it immediately. What do you think of the convention? I think it was a great success. After leaving you that morning Brown, Hamilton, Boudinot and myself went up to Ann Arbor where we saw the Beta hall. But we could not see Root. We saw one of his traitorous gang who sneaked away out of our sight, as soon as possible. There is a feeling of hatred exhibited by all the students against them. At first the students supposed the whole fraternity intended to adopt the * Y badge. But when they found out the true state of affairs, they had "no sympathy with traitors." As it is midnight I will close.

OMER T. GILLET, INDIANA, TO WESLEY O. YOUNG, OHIO.

BLOOMINGTON, IND., Feb. 21, 1865.

The convention at Detroit having decided that the communication between the chapters of Beta Theta Pi should be better attended to, I take the opportunity of writing to you and reviving the correspondence between us. Our chapter is flourishing and the true Greek spirit prevails. If you will answer this note, I will write much more in reply.

J. L. PINKERTON, BETHANY, TO R. M. MILLER, HANOVER.

BETHANY, February 25, 1865.

Yours of February 28 I received a week ago, but have not had an opportunity for reply until the present. I was glad to hear from you, and to get into the track of affairs once more, and shall proceed to comply with requests made in your letter. Your fears as to our chapter having "played out" are hereby realized, since I am sorry to inform you our chapter is not organized this year. There are but two of us here this season, brother Hall and myself, and we have made no effort to re-organize this year. It is not possible now to explain the reasons why we have not done so. No one could appreciate them unless

placed among the same circumstances. We would not, however, be forgotten by our friends and although it does not come within the scope of your duties, we should be glad to have you write to us, and post us occasionally on events. We have had no intelligence for a long time of the movements of the society and are almost entirely ignorant of its affairs. Brother Hall joins me in kindest, best wishes for the prosperity of "Iota."

RICHARD T. DURRELL, MIAMI, TO WESLEY O. YOUNG, OHIO.

OXFORD, OHIO, February 26, 1865.

We received your epistle and perused it with unusual interest. We were sorry Kappa was not represented at the late convention. It was a perfect success; delegates were there from all but two or three chapters, and it was also favored with a large attendance of Betas from that vicinity. Patterson went from our chapter. He said that with all the old Betas there were from twenty-five to thirty there which I am sure, considering the superiority of Betas, would make quite a respectable looking body. They did nothing more than re-establish the chapter at Ann Arbor, giving the loyal Beta Boudinot full power to do so. I think from all accounts nothing was lost more than a mass of men regardless of honor, if they had any. Let them go! Beta Theta Pi is now of such fine and unalloyed metal as never before. The interest of the entire fraternity was revived. We heard glorious news from Beta Chapter where they have a large chapter of twelve or fifteen members. The reason we did not hear from them last year was they through misrepresentations were implicated in the Psi Upsilon movement but being unable to make the raffle they are as prodigals willing to return to their father's house.

We have not received the minutes yet; they will be forwarded from Theta as Brown was Secretary. You must be patient as there is much writing to do. The minutes were large. Iota is presiding chapter. It fell to her by priority of the chapters, it is a good chapter. Alpha was authorized to publish the catalogue. We will hardly get it published before the next convention, which will be in May some time. It is a particular work to do. By the time I write again, I think I will be able to give you the name

of the corresponding secretary of the chapter at Washington College, Pa. This may surprise you, as it did me, when I heard through a Beta at Allegheny Theological Seminary that there were four or five Betas at Washington. I wrote today to a man there for information. When I write again I will enlighten you more on the subject if possible. We are gaining strength. I think this chapter and Beta now makes eleven chapters in existence. I also received a letter from one of our brethren in the South. A young fellow by the name of Caldwell wrote to our chapter last week from Richmond, Va. He is in the Rebel Kershaw's Division. He wanted to know what testimony he would have to give of membership. He addressed us as Alpha. He said he was a member of a chapter in South Carolina in 1857 at Erskine College. I wrote to him and did the best I could for him. I will hear from him again soon. In reference to the address for the pin, I will find out by the time I write again. Hillis, the President who has up to the present sent for them, is not about at present. The name I am sure is John B. Kirby, New Haven. Everything now looks prosperous for B Θ II, except Lambda and in a year or two it will be better than ever before in quality if not in quantity. And by maintaining our present strength, after the war we can easily revive many of the Southern chapters.

GEORGE H. SISSON, INDIANA ASBURY, TO ROBERT M. MILLER,
HANOVER.

GREENCASTLE, IND., Feb. 28th, 1865.

Having been appointed corresponding secretary of Delta, the division of corresponding lists gives "I" to me. If there be a lack of anything interesting in my "salutatory" you will kindly attribute it to my extreme modesty. Thanks to our guiding spirit, our order is again looking up. By the acts of the recent convention we have safely passed through a danger that has proven our salvation. If a few who never merited the name of "Greeks" have gone to gather mandrakes in the cold let us feel very grateful. Our safety no longer tempts us to wish them in a *warmer climate*.

As a chapter and as individuals Delta's members are glad

to have some strong experienced chapter at the head of our fraternal affairs. That Iota may shelter us from the rain with kinder wings than we have felt of late, is the earnest wish of your humble servant.

Like *Jamie* I hope to hear you exclaim—"Niver moind Teddie, I'll be yer mither now." We have much to do to put the order where it was once but I think we can do it. We are already on firmer ground than what we have occupied for a year or two. Let us hope that the dark days are gone. In my humble way I am willing to work, to wait, and to sacrifice for our common brotherhood, till we compel success to take us by the hand.

GEO. H. SISSON, INDIANA ASBURY, TO WESLEY O. YOUNG, OHIO.

GREENCASTLE, IND., March 3, 1865.

At the late convention, Delta was commissioned to compile a song book. In your reply, which I hope will be immediate, will you be kind enough to furnish us with such songs as you have that may be suitable for publication. You doubtless have a few favorite songs and we owe it to our order to furnish her with a good collection that shall add very materially to the interest we take in her.

RICHARD T. DURRELL, MIAMI, TO JOHN A. KELLAR, HANOVER.

OXFORD, OHIO, March 23, 1865.

Your letter of a late date came to hand. In regard to the matters which you mentioned, Alpha thought neither would be advisable, first in regard to the renaming the chapters. As far as we are concerned of course it would make no difference. But we assure you the majority of the chapters would not consent, for the reason that the old members would dislike very much to recur to their chapter, which had so many pleasant associations, by a different name.

The other, if we understand you, would incur considerable expense, in addition, a plate of course would have to be made and previously designed. But whatever the majority of the chapters wish, we will do, if you inform us in time. We are glad to see you devising means for the interests of the fraternity. It is characteristic of a true Greek.

We are progressing slowly with the catalogue. We have all the lists but about four copied. We received the list from Washington, Pa. They have ten or eleven members. Quite encouraging, is it not? We have the list from the Naval Academy also. Beta's has not yet come in. If you write stir them up, we have but little time. I propose to take them to the City, April vacation, April 4th, and have them published.

We have had some little difficulty with your list in distinguishing your I's and J's. Please forward the following names again: Sam I. Gilpin, S. I. Abbot, A. I. Dean, P. I. Collins, I. Calvin Eastman, George L. Spinning.

We had to return the entire list to Theta; he gave not a date, rather careless, it seems to me.

When you write let me know how many catalogues you will want. We cannot tell you what they will be, perhaps between forty and fifty cents per copy, but you can judge the price as well as we, and more than that the price of printing will depend somewhat on the number we want, so forward your order immediately and for fear that I will not have time to write to all, write to some or as many as you can and get their orders. We find it considerable more work than we imagined. The index is going to be *the* work. I rather think it was your duty to have done it. I do not see why Patterson did not let you or rather urge you to *partake* of the honor. But as we have it to do, we will do as best we can. Boudinot I presume has left Ann Arbor by this time. I was sorry to hear it. We never heard the cause. Did you? I do not know what we will do to resurrect Lambda. But it is gratifying to know we are purified to what we were a year ago. Boudinot said perhaps he might return, but it was rather doubtful. Write immediately.

OMER T. GILLET, INDIANA, TO WESLEY O. YOUNG, OHIO.

BLOOMINGTON, IND., March 31, 1865.

Your letter of March 3rd came promptly to hand. Pi is glad to hear such a favorable report of Kappa.

Our chapter is flourishing. Six loyal Greeks have composed it this year. Next term two of these will not be here. In numbers we are not as great as some other secret organizations in our

University, but are conceded by all not interested to be in the ascendancy.

You have a very favorable report of the "Queens." Some of those beings are in Bloomington. One night last week we had a Beta "drop in" at the residence of the president of our university, who is a Beta. About twenty persons were present. We had a glorious time.

We have not yet received the minutes of the Detroit convention. But, as we had a delegate there, we know about all that was done.

Yesterday, I received a letter from Nu chapter at Washington, Penn. It is the first letter from that chapter we have received since I have been a Greek. They are in a flourishing condition.

Tau, Delta and Pi chapters had a little reunion at Greencastle the first of this month. As these chapters are near together, we intend having a similar gathering every year. All present seemed to think as do you that the secession of Lambda will be of great good to the other chapters, although in itself a calamity. It will cause us to redouble our efforts and strive harder to maintain the honor of B @ II.

J. FARRAND TUTTLE, WABASH, TO WM. F. BOYD, OHIO.

CRAWFORDSVILLE, IND., April 28, 1865.

Your communication from Kappa came to Tau last evening, and I think was the first we have received from you in a great while. I gather from your letter that you must be on a foraging expedition for news. On account of the secession of Lambda, it was deemed best by some of the Beta residents of Detroit to hold the convention there and appoint Alpha presiding chapter for the time being. We barely obtained word in time to send our delegate. The convention was a perfect success, there being between twenty-five and thirty members present. It was organized with J. E. Kellar, formerly of Tau, but at Hanover as President. The principal business on hand was the publishing of the catalogues and gathering items about Lambda's conduct. Alpha was appointed a committee to see that the catalogue would be gotten up in true style. It will be out in the course of two or three weeks. Delta was appointed a committee

to collect songs and publish a Beta song book, she is at work now at this matter and I think before long these songs will be out. Theta and Delta picked a quarrel about six months since and Alpha threatened to censure Theta severely in the convention. The Delaware boys initiated a drunken, good-for-nothing sort of fellow, and they allowed him to send on for a pin. Soon after that he came to Greencastle and as the secret societies are public there, he was of course a great annoyance to our boys there. Delta immediately wrote to Theta telling them not to send a pin to a fellow like him. For the very fact that such a worthless fellow sported a Beta pin would be a death blow to Delta. I think the trouble has by this time blown over, but it certainly looked very small in Theta to behave the way she did. Iota, at Hanover, was ordered to be the presiding chapter for the next year. The next convention has been determined to be sometime in May, 1866, and will probably be held at Indianapolis. I think by writing either to Delta or Iota either of these will furnish you with the minutes you desire. Lambda is no more. The last member, Ed Boudinot of Terre Haute having left College. He was the only one who remained faithful. Delta, Pi and Tau had a very pleasant reunion at Greencastle last term. If you will look on the map, you will see that Greencastle is half way between Bloomington and Crawfordsville, on the same R. R. About the 1st of March, we received an invitation from Delta to visit her and spend a couple of days there. All of our boys went with the exception of myself, and there found the Bloomington boys. To say that they enjoyed a good time would be but telling half the truth. All left strengthened in their faith and zeal in the cause of B & O. Tau numbers six. There is but one opposition society, the Phi Delta Theta. They go in for numbers decidedly, having now thirteen or fourteen. The literary Societies are sometimes a splendid arena for the secret societies to fight and we, although so few, come off almost always, with very few exceptions, the victors.

JOHN M. BROWNSON, WASHINGTON, PA., TO WM. F. BOYD, OHIO.

WASHINGTON, PA., April 28, 1865.

I suppose you have been informed of the death of Gamma (Jefferson College). But as Washington and Jefferson Colleges

are to be consolidated, this fall, we will endeavor to resurrect Gamma and carry on both chapters.

The Preparatory Department, Freshman Class, and Scientific Department are to remain here while the Senior, Junior, and Sophomore classes will be placed at Canonsburg, which is seven miles distant, so I think, we can carry on both chapters in a flourishing way. You had your letter directed to the care of our College President, who I assure you would be a poor medium through which to transmit Secret Correspondence. He with the other professors is dreadfully opposed to secret fraternities, and does all in his power to put them down. And would not I think fancy anything that could in any way assist them. However, the postmaster happened to know me as a member of B Θ II and so the worthy president was saved the disgrace of helping fraternities.

FRANK L. BALDWIN, WESTERN RESERVE, TO WM. F. BOYD, OHIO.

HUDSON, OHIO, April 29th, 1865.

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that Beta at present is quite prosperous. When I tell you that Beta took the first two honors at the last Junior Exhibition and that they are sure of at least three in the next class, you will see that Beta Theta Pi is still well represented at Western Reserve College. We have nine members now, in Beta Chapter; all of whom are boys alike remarkable for scholarship and sociability. One of our brothers left us last term, but as he goes to the Naval Academy at Newport where we understand there is a Chapter of Betas, we do not consider him lost. We did not have an acting member at the late convention held in Detroit, but two older members residing in the city, represented our Chapter. It is somewhat strange that you have not yet received the minutes of the convention. Theta forwarded a copy to us five or six weeks ago.

JOHN M. BROWNSON, WASHINGTON, (PA.), TO ROBERT M. MILLER, HANOVER.

WASHINGTON, PA., April 30th, 1865.

Yours of April 3rd duly received. We have since received

the minutes of the last Biennial Convention and are daily expecting those of the called convention. We have, however, never received the list of corresponding secretaries. We have been able to ascertain those of Alpha, Delta, Iota, Kappa, Pi and Omega and would be very much obliged if you would forward the rest. We are all now I believe agreed to try to raise up Gamma again. There is to be a scientific department here and I think Nu will be able to maintain its dignity. Please write soon and address Mr. D. J. McAdam.

THE HANOVER CHAPTER, TO THE OHIO CHAPTER.

HANOVER, IND., May 15th, 1865.

Call the attention of your chapter to the following questions:

In regard to the forming a chapter at Northwest Christian University, at Indianapolis, Ind.

In regard to the propriety of having our history appear in a book entitled "Colleges and Societies in the U. S." Plan as follows: History of its formation, date and circumstances, etc. By whom, etc., description of badge, etc., biographical sketches of prominent men.

Your vote on the minutes.

Our decision in regard to Beta exculpates her from all blame in regard to the Psi U move. Her defence was solid and sufficient in our opinion.

JOHN M. BROWNSON, WASHINGTON, PA., TO ARCHIBALD M. OSBORNE, OHIO.

WASHINGTON, PENNA., May 22nd, 1865.

Yours of the 18th duly received and as I believe in speedy answers I will perform the duty of answering your letter immediately. You wish to know if we have any $\Delta T \Delta$'s in our college. Well we have as many as is desirable. There is not, I believe a distinct chapter here, but only a branch of the chapter at Jefferson. They claim to have ten members here, only six of whom have as yet come out with a pin. My knowledge of their history is rather limited. Judging from the little I know of them, I would say that they were aiming solely at numbers. This is the case at least with them here and at Jefferson. That their

desire and aim is for numbers alone is evident from the fact that they establish chapters in academies. One of our students who was a member of B Θ Π for a very short time and then was expelled has appeared at a Δ T Δ the Δ's knowing of his expulsion, but I suppose he suited the crowd. Previous to his joining them he tried without avail to work his way into Nu again. My opinion of the Δ T Δ's in a nutshell and in homely language is that "they are small potatoes." I suppose I have eulogized them enough to give you a pretty clear conception of our notions concerning them, so I will drop them.

I wish you would inform us where the cut of our badge, which is printed upon your letter paper is, as we would like to get some paper stamped with it.

FRANK L. BALDWIN, WESTERN RESERVE, TO ARCHIBALD M. OSBORNE, OHIO.

HUDSON, OHIO, June 1, 1865.

We have written to Hon. O. P. Morton, Governor of Indiana, and a Brother Beta requesting him to deliver an oration before our chapter at commencement, it being our turn to have an orator this year, as the A Δ Φ had theirs last year. We do not think it at all probable that Gov. Morton will accept our invitation owing to the great amount of business which he must have, but having been advised by Judge Hoadley of Cincinnati, an old member of Beta Chapter, to invite him to address us, we wrote to him some days since. Should we succeed in obtaining him, the case of Beta Theta Pi cannot but be greatly advanced at this college.

Some weeks ago, we received a letter from a gentlemen of New York requesting us to furnish him for publication a history of our Fraternity from its organization to the present time. As the letter seemed to have been written to the Senior Chapter, we immediately forwarded it to Alpha. This gentleman proposes to collect the histories of all college secret organizations in the United States and to publish them in book form. I think the idea is a very good one, and can see no possible injury resulting from the publication of the history of our Society with those of others.

J. C. EASTMAN, HANOVER, TO WESLEY O. YOUNG, OHIO.

HANOVER, IND., June 1, 1865.

Your last epistle to Brother Kellar was read in our meeting last week, and I hasten to reply as we cannot hear from you more than once again before commencement. In regard to the history proposed by Mr. Jenkins for B Θ II, I would say that it is not for our order only, but for all the prominent secret societies in the colleges of the United States. I have not the plan of the work in my possession so that I am unable to send it to you in full, but it is not designed to make known anything which we would desire to keep secret. The date and place of the foundation of the order; the names of the founders and of the eminent men of the fraternity are requested and other matters connected with the order to be related in such a way as an observer would do, as the description of the pin, etc. Brother Kellar wrote to Mr. Jenkins and told him that part fourth of the work which relates to the location of all the chapters of the order, we could not give him as there are chapters organized in places where, were it known the members would be expelled from the college to which they belong. With the information we have received from the author, in regard to it, Iota is unanimously in favor of the work, and has voted to request some of the most celebrated men of the fraternity to compile the history, for which work, we suggest the names of Mr. Linton one of Alpha's first members, Gov. O. P. Morton or Chaplain Lozier, the great champion of the Sanitary Commission in Indiana. If there are others you would propose in that connection, we would be glad to hear.

We have been consulting as to the propriety of each chapter delivering to its members who become graduates a Fraternity Diploma as a memento of affection from the beloved associates of college days. How do you like the plan? A plain diploma plate will cost \$0.75; one with the frontispiece of the catalogue in connection \$1.50. Like you, we think that as soon as Dixie's Colleges recover the war blow, we should plant our standards there again.

H. M. LASH, DELTA TAU DELTA, AT OHIO, TO THE MEMBERS
OF B @ II OF THE OHIO UNIVERSITY

ATHENS, O., June 9th, 1865.

As proper officer of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity, I am authorized to extend an invitation to you to march with us on Monday Evening, June 19th, from the college to the Atheneum Hall. Said march to commence at 7 o'clock.

WILLIAM F. BOYD, OHIO, TO THE DELTA TAU DELTA CHAPTER,
AT OHIO UNIVERSITY.

ATHENS, O., June 14th, 1865.

We have received your note, per Mr. Lash inviting us to march with you from the Ohio University on the evening of your coming Anniversary. At present, we expect but few of our members to be here on that evening.

Should we accept your invitation, it would be creating a precedent which, we think it would be better for all concerned not to establish. Moreover, as far as we know, it is not customary at other institutions for Greek Societies, as such, to march with each other. For these reasons, and others that we might mention, and returning to you our thanks for the courtesy extended, we would respectfully decline your invitation.

CHAPTER XI

FIVE YEARS OF STRUGGLE AND DESPAIR.

JOHN M. BROWNSON, WASHINGTON, PA., TO WILLIAM F.
BOYD, O.

WASHINGTON, PA., September 7, 1865.

I am sorry that I am unable to send you a catalogue of our college, as they are not out yet. It is doubtful whether there will be any this year. If there are any, I will send one. I suppose you have heard of the union of Washington and Jefferson Colleges, which goes into effect this next term upon the 22nd of this month. If there are no catalogues, it will be on account of this union.

I received the degree of A. B. upon the third of August last, wherefore, I am free from college duties, and college life with all its pleasures and difficulties and am about to launch forth in the world either for success or failure. The next letter you write please address to Leander C. Woolfolk, Canonsburg, Washington Co., Penna.

Gamma which was located at Canonsburg being as you know dead, it was proposed at a meeting of some old members of Gamma that the chapter in the new college be called "Gamma Nu." This I suppose will have to be subjected to the order at large, but we could conceive of nothing better. The new college is to consist of two parts one located at Canonsburg and one here. The senior, junior and sophomore classes are placed at Canonsburg while the freshman and preparatory classes and the scientific department are placed here. It is proposed to have the seat of Gamma Nu at Canonsburg and a branch under the authority of the regular chapter here. The distance between the two places is only seven miles, so we think on the whole this is the best arrangement which could be made. The boys are all away at present. I am glad to hear of the decline of your rival the $\Delta T \Delta$. I begrudge them the paper upon which to write their name, so insignificant are they.

WILLIAM W. EASTMAN, HANOVER, TO WILLIAM F. BOYD, OHIO.

HANOVER, IND., Sept. 23, 1865.

Correspondence has lagged for the last year and many Chapters complain bitterly, and we fear not without reason of neglect from the rest of the fraternity, we would earnestly call upon you to unite with us in a resolution henceforth to be more punctual and zealous in the performance of this duty.

We have heard rumors (but hope they are groundless) that Beta chapter may yet join perjured Lambda in the ranks of Psi Upsilon, and we would especially request you to write frequently to her, and let your letters be warm and cordial not showing any mistrust, and strive with us to win back our Sister to her old love.

Alpha has but one member this year but he is loyal and is determined not to let Alpha's light be extinguished. Altogether our affairs are brightening up and we can safely trust that the glory of the Beta Theta Pi, is not a thing of the past. Several of the Southern Colleges are again going into operation, and I hope before many months have passed all our old Southern Chapters may be reorganized, and that the fraternity will do a good work in healing up the wounds and softening the enmity created by the sanguine struggle of the past four years.

We would ask you to vote on establishing a Chapter at Monmouth, Ill.; the College there number 226 students, the President is (D. A. Wallace, D.D.) an old Beta and one of the Professors is a $\Phi \Gamma \Delta$ and there is danger that that society will get ahead of us there if we do not take active measures for the organization.

JOHN Y. RUSK, OHIO WESLEYAN, TO WILLIAM F. BOYD, OHIO.

DELAWARE, OHIO, September 30, 1865.

Another vacation with its changes has rolled by, and Theta finds herself marked as one of those on whom change has made inroads. Yet, I can truly say she is in a flourishing condition. We have at present six members and one absent who will soon be present. All are zealous working, earnest, determined men, with hearts overflowing with the Greek sympathy, and burning

with true Greek fire. We have under consideration three men one of them a junior, one a sophomore, and one a freshman, all first class men of Christian Character and literary worth. We have the underhand and upperhand here this term, and are determined to keep it.

I have received no list of Corresponding Secretaries farther than the one you sent me. Will you send more as soon as received?

I think we should make a special effort this year, and hunt up those chapters that were disorganized by the war. Can there not be something done to hear from them? Consult all our brethren on this subject, and let us write once more and go forward with new determination to build unto ourselves a solid foundation and a lofty tower of honor. Make ourselves worthy of the name and badge of Beta Theta Pi.

FREDERICK S. HANFORD, WESTERN RESERVE, TO WILLIAM F. BOYD, OHIO.

HUDSON, O., October 16th, 1865.

Your letter to Frank L. Baldwin or "any member of Beta Theta Pi" came to us all right. Brother Baldwin left at the close of last year and entered the Junior class in Yale. We have lost another good member from our chapter Benj. H. Buckingham, who has gone to attend the Naval Academy. He writes that he sees nothing of Omega chapter which was established in the Naval Academy you know. But she must be in existence for we received a letter from her Corresponding Secretary a few months since containing favorable accounts of her prosperity. They labor under many disadvantages because there are stringent regulations forbidding the midshipmen to unite in any club or organization. Since Omega lives in spite of such severe regulations it is not to be wondered at that she keeps so secret that our brother from here does not find them out immediately.

We now have but nine members, quite a small number for Beta. We have, however, not yet taken our pick from the Freshmen class. When we shall have done this we shall probably increase our number by three or four, little fearful of the Alpha Deltas or the anti-secret organization.

We have sent in our votes to Iota on the different questions

which she laid before the chapters. We are in favor of establishing a chapter at Indianapolis in the North Western Christian University, influenced by the representations of Brother Kellar, who is a most reliable gentleman, and is well acquainted with the standing of the University and the prospects of our success in founding a chapter there. We vote against the plan of giving diplomas to members on their leaving the several chapters. We vote most decidedly in favor of having our history appear in the book to be issued concerning secret societies. If there were no other reasons this one is sufficient. Many other fraternities and the most important ones too will be mentioned in this book and it will be much against us if we do not appear with them.

WILLIAM W. EASTMAN, HANOVER, TO WILLIAM F. BOYD, OHIO.

HANOVER, IND., October 18, 1865.

I have not yet received an answer to my last letter to you, but there are some things which require immediate communication. First: It is proposed to establish a chapter of B Θ Π at Monmouth, Ill. As to the standing of the college, its course of study is about the same as that of Hanover; it has near three hundred students, about two-thirds of whom are gentlemen—the rest ladies. There can be no doubt as to its respectability as it is under the control of the United Presbyterian Church and the greater part of its students are of that persuasion. The President and two of the Professors are Betas, so also a student of the Senior Class. The President is very anxious to have the chapter established, but does not wish to take an active part in the matter. He is willing to advise as to what students should be chosen to start on, etc.

The Senior Student mentioned is Joseph E. Moffatt formerly of Pi; *he* says that there are five students of the Sr. and Jr., classes alone that would form a chapter that would do honor to the fraternity. Please let us have your vote on the matter as soon as possible.

Second: Please send a list of your members who have been initiated since you sent your list to Alpha for the new catalogue—if received before the 25th inst., their names can be inserted in the catalogue.

Third: Let us have any addresses you may have in your

possession of Betas belonging to Southern Chapters as we wish to commence to agitate the matter of reorganization of our dead chapters—do all you can in this way also.

Iota is prospering; we have taken in only one member this year and he is, without exception, the most talented student in college—he was here two years ago and was elected, but left college before he could be “spiked”; his name is Thomas E. J. Charlton. We do not approve of taking in persons on short acquaintance and without any *correct* knowledge of their abilities and *affections* (as *some* other chapters do). We are now watching three others but will not likely admit any of them till the last of the year; we simply give those we have in mind a *hint*, of our intention (and that is all that is necessary) to keep them out of the Φ Γ’s clutches.

The chapter is now composed of the following named members :

Sam J. Gilpin, Resident-graduate.

Preston McKinney, Senior.

George G. Dunn, Junior.

Oscar W. Shryer, Junior.

T. J. Charton, Junior.

Ed. P. Whallon, Soph.

Frank Trigg, Soph.

Myself, Soph.

and with the exception of the last mentioned they are all as worthy of the honor of membership of B Θ II as the best Greek could wish, and if an honest belief in, and love for the principles we profess and an earnest desire for the prosperity of “all who bear the name and wear the badge of B Θ II” can make one worthy I claim the honor.

Iota sends her earnest love to Kappa and desires to hear from her soon.

BENJAMIN H. BUCKINGHAM, NAVAL ACADEMY, TO WILLIAM F.
BOYD, OHIO.

U. S. NAVAL ACADEMY, Oct. 20th, 1865.

I take it upon myself to answer your kind letter to Brother

Talbot. I am but a new comer here but, an old Greek, and so am initiated into all of the secrets of Omega. I find the state of affairs here truly lamentable. I am afraid with Omega as it is with the other Chapters of the fraternity, the loss of that needful quality to sustain anything—interest. Yet as may seem strange to you, I do not wonder. Coming from the best of Chapters I, as all of them, thought that at the Naval Academy could be made, if there was any effort, one of the most flourishing Chapters in the Fraternity. So thinking I came here full of hope and resolution to do my part in waking up the dormant Brothers at Omega. I met Brother Talbot who by the way is a most perfect Gentleman, a fine scholar, who occupies a high position in his class and in the estimation of his classmates is everything that a true Greek should be.

I found out through him the true condition of affairs here, the situation one is placed in when he becomes a member and the general feeling of those who have not experienced the sweets of Greece heretofore. I will try to make you understand, to as a great a degree as I am able, how we are situated here, and to show you that we cannot be blamed for taking the stand we do.

You are aware no doubt that it is positively against the regulations of the Academy that any such organization should exist, and here when anything is "*contra legem*" it is extremely difficult to exist long. A system of police which ferrets out the most hidden things, soon finds out the existence of such a body as would form a good Chapter of Beta Theta Pi. There are now in the Chapter eight members, liable to be reported to the Department and even expelled. This body is without organization, without interest, and yet I who about a year ago would think it impossible for any body of Greeks to be in such a condition, do not, knowing the condition in which they are placed, think it strange. Hence, it is impossible to hold any secret meeting, some of us being on shipboard and some in the buildings. Aboard ship of course there could be no meetings, while at the buildings any room is liable to be entered at anytime by an Officer, and they do frequently come. Now, without those hearty old Beta meetings how are we to flourish?

Some of you will say why can't we meet in Town, but my dear Brothers, we are not permitted to go to Town, only Saturday

afternoons and then merely a portion of us and allowed to enter no house (except private dwellings) without special permission. Brother Talbot has for the last few years been trying to instil life into the members and has found it to be impossible under the existing circumstances. Therefore we have concluded to write to the various Chapters, tell them our circumstances and say that we can do no more. Write letters and encourage us if you can. We are willing, perfectly so, to push on if we see the least glimmer of land ahead. Write soon and tell us your opinion.

F. C. WILSON, WASHINGTON COLLEGE, VA., TO WESLEY O.
YOUNG, OHIO.

LEXINGTON, VA., October 21, 1865.

After having, as it were, been out of the world, for the last four years Old Rho chapter once more sends greetings to Kappa. I the other day received from Chapter "Pi" the first Greek letter received by Rho since the commencement of the war, and it gladdened my heart to feel that we could still grasp by the hand and greet as Betas, many from whom we have been cut off from so long.

Brother Gillet enclosed me a partial list of Secretaries, your name being among the number. So I lose no time in writing, hoping again to open friendly communion and intercourse between Rho and Kappa. Our number is small but all are true Greeks and we hope ere long as soon as we have sufficiently scrutinized them, to introduce several new ones.

Take time to write us a good long letter and tell us everything that has occurred in the Beta world during the last five years. Have there been any Conventions since 1860, and what has been done at them? Where can the proceedings of the Convention of 1860 and the succeeding Conventions be obtained. Where does the next one occur and when? Which is the presiding Chapter?

Where do you get your badges made now? Does J. B. Kirby, 76 Chapel St., New Haven, Conn., still make them? And if so at the same old price \$6.00, and if not who is the maker and at what price. We have some new men who will soon want badges, so please give us all the information necessary to get them. In short give us all the points. If you knew how anxious we all

are to hear everything you would not begrudge the time to fill up four or eight pages of foolscap, so please write soon and long.

WILL W. EASTMAN, HANOVER, TO WM. F. BOYD, OHIO.

HANOVER, IND., October 28, 1865.

The correction of your catalogue list I've already attended to. We cannot get the work to press before the 1st of November, as one of the Chapters is yet behind with her list, and it will take about four weeks to do the work; we have contracted for 500 copies at \$250.00 and will have to rely upon the fraternity for the needful.

Please call upon your old members for cash, and let us know what you can raise by November 20th as the work has to be paid for when the catalogues are delivered to us, and Iota's purse is light this year; we will send you as many copies as the money you send us will pay for. We would suggest that you take a few copies for future use; as every new member will want one. Iota will stand her full share of expense—will do as much as any other Chapter toward furnishing means, besides being compelled to give a great deal of time and attention to the work. The questions of establishing a chapter at North Western Christian University, Indianapolis, Ind., and of our being represented in the history of college secret societies have both been decided in the affirmative—the first by a majority of three Chapters—the latter of six.

We have at last heard from Omega; she is quite lonely in her isolated condition, and earnestly desires to hear from the Chapters; write to her soon. Her corresponding secretary, B. H. Buckingham, Annapolis, Maryland.

Would you like to have some beautiful photographs of the frontispiece of the Catalogue? If so, send an order to A. F. Wise, B & H Crawfordsville, Ind. He furnishes them at \$3.00 per dozen.

WILL W. EASTMAN, HANOVER, TO WM. F. BOYD, OHIO.

HANOVER, IND., November 13, 1865.

I feel highly complimented by what you said in your last concerning my promptness. For my part I know I am no more

prompt than every Beta should be, for where business matters of the fraternity must be approved by all the chapters before business can be transacted, it is necessary, in order to secure despatch, that every letter should be answered as soon as received, as an instance of how business is protracted on account of the procrastination of some chapters in the vote on the proposed chapter at North West Christian University, has been on hand for nearly a year, and it is probable that it will be spring before we can get it started, if ever. The vote on the Chapter at Monmouth has been given with much less reluctance and one more affirmative vote, will decide the matter, there has as yet been no vote cast against it.

Like yourself, I was much rejoiced to hear from Rho chapter, although they are, you say, *ex-secesh*, and I myself have proven my political proclivities to be in an opposite direction, by serving three and a half years in the U. S. A., yet in B. Θ. II there is no distinction of persons either of rebels or of loyal men, and I can extend to them the right hand of fellowship as freely as if their separation from us of four years had been caused by something else.

We have decided to postpone publishing the catalogues until January 10th, 1866 provided a majority of the chapters do not veto our decision. You were not too fast in telling Rho what you did as we have already sent her the same request.

WILL W. EASTMAN, HANOVER, TO WILLIAM F. BOYD, OHIO.

HANOVER, IND., November 23, 1865.

We have now nine members present. In response to the earnest solicitation of several of the Chapters we have anticipated the time for appointing the place for the Convention, and have selected Cincinnati, Ohio, as being most central, and easy of access from all points.

Mu chapter wished us to decide whether it is contrary to the spirit of our Constitution to admit free Masons. We referred the question to the next Convention. We would like to have some singing at our next Convention. Cannot Kappa have some one on the ground to give a good Greek song or two?

The Chapter met Saturday night, and on the earnest solici-

tation of several Beta gentlemen of Cincinnati, it was decided to propose the Cincinnati Law School as a suitable place for Chapter of B Θ II. Our informers say that in several Institutions the Theological Seminary, the Ohio Medical College and the first one named, material is to be found for the organization and sustenance of a large flourishing and talented Chapter of B Θ II. The Chapter at Monmouth was authorized at last meeting.

H. C. WILSON, WASHINGTON LEE, TO WM. F. BOYD, OHIO.

LEXINGTON, VA., Dec. 4, 1865.

Yours of the 20th as well as the Convention documents came safely, and I was exceedingly gratified at the receipt of them. Your taking the trouble to copy the proceedings shows that you have our cause truly at heart, and that you take an interest in the welfare of our Chapter.

We lack now the minutes of only one Convention and that is of 1860, Columbus, Ohio, which I attended as a delegate from Rho Chapter. I know not what why we have never received a copy of the proceedings. I think if I recollect rightly that Delta was appointed to prepare the copies of the proceedings. I think it would be an excellent plan to have the proceedings of all the Conventions published for the use of the Chapters. The expense would not be great and it would promote the welfare of our fraternity. I myself am exceedingly anxious to see the proceedings of all the Conventions.

I see in reading over the minutes sent me that the grip has been changed by the Convention. We have still the old one and I know not how to get the new. Of course it cannot be described in a letter. Can we not manage in this way. You write out in a cipher which you can devise for the occasion a minute description of it which you can send in a letter to me, then after I acknowledge the receipt of it then in your next letter send me the key to the cipher. It seems to me that there could be no sort of danger in this and it certainly would not violate the spirit of the Constitution in doing it. We could easily get it to Omicron and perhaps to Zeta, too, by some of us going there.

We are progressing finely have five new men now in College, besides Brother Meyers and myself, in town. Still though not

connected with College we take a deep interest in our Mother Chapter. About two weeks ago we turned out for the first time two of our new men who had been old members in College. This seemed to wake up the Phi Kappa Psi's, who held a meeting the same night and continued it even until twelve o'clock. They elected two of our men whom we swung out the other night, and so we sold them beautifully. I think we will be able to get in altogether twelve men who will make true Greeks.

We have heard from Omicron. The difficulty with them is that there are no Betas there this session who were there last session and no one who knows where their archives are. There are three Greeks there, two from other chapters and one who had been there before the war. They have written to us for a copy of the constitution so as to organize properly.

We have to continually make inquiries about archives and I hardly expect that they will be able to recover anything of their papers in time for the catalogue. I have written to Iota about it. I thought my letter would not reach them in time. But they decided to delay the publication until January 10th. I therefore wrote to L. L. Halladay, an old member of Zeta at Hampden-Sidney, who is trying to reorganize the chapter, and I asked him to make out the list.

Please send us the grip in the manner in which I suggest.

R. W. PRITCHETT, CUMBERLAND, TO WM. F. BOYD, OHIO.

LEBANON, TENN., December 14, 1865.

Your communication of the 7th inst. came to hand a few days ago. We were delighted to hear from "Kappa." Old Mu chapter is once more in existence and flourishing finely. We are delighted with our prospects in this vicinity and have received good reports from many of the chapters. Our reorganization has been a recent thing and as a matter of course have nothing interesting to write except that we are increasing every day. We now number nine with the prospect of an increase to thirteen at next meeting.

J. E. MOFFATT, MONMOUTH, TO WM. F. BOYD, OHIO.

MONMOUTH, ILLS., December 20, 1865.

We received our authority and documents from Iota and

have organized the chapter. It consists of Joseph C. Gordon, Thomas Shaver, Albert McCalla, H. R. McClelland and myself. We expect to initiate two more the first week of next term. The boys are quite enthusiastic and I think the prospects very good. As the term closes this week we don't expect to do much business, but want to begin next term. Brother Shaver and myself have been appointed to draw up by laws, and we wish to do as well as profitable we would be much obliged for a copy of yours.

We wish to get hold of some song as we have some singers and if you have anything of a song book or anything of the kind, please let us know?

WILL W. EASTMAN, HANOVER, TO WM. F. BOYD, OHIO.

HANOVER, IND., December 23, 1865.

I will first answer your questions in regard to Psi; we have not as yet been favored with any communication from her, although we have written twice. I fear that our information concerning her reorganization, was incorrect. We have received a letter from one of Sigma's old members, now a student at the Iowa State University, asking us to propose that institution as a suitable place for us to raise the Beta Banner, we have consented to do so, though we know nothing of the standing of the college. Give us your vote; for information address: Louis H. Jackson, P. O. Box 14, Iowa City, Iowa.

I think that the suspicions entertained by some chapters against Beta chapter are entirely groundless. She doubtless feels sore, but after considerable correspondence with her I formed the opinion that she is at least loyal.

DAVID W. THOMAS, INDIANA ASBURY, TO WM. F. BOYD, OHIO.

GREENCASTLE, December 23, 1865.

We have written to each of the chapters and have heard from most of them. Glorious old Beta is coming up again, we have heard from several chapters in the South. We received a letter from Rho a few days since.

Our Fraternity is already the principal order in the west and a little exertion on our part will make it the order of United

States. Writing our history I think is a good move in that direction, also the reorganization of defunct chapters and the formation of new ones wherever worthy. Delta is in a prosperous condition. We number six, two Seniors, two juniors, two sophomores. We have some good fellows in view and we expect an increase in the Greek Family here the early part of next term.

HUGH R. McCLELLAND, MONMOUTH, TO WM. F. BOYD, O.

MONMOUTH, ILL., January 8th, 1866.

We have no Beta songs as yet, but we have some College songs and a poet. What the result may be I am not prepared to say. I hail from Iowa, Washington Co., some miles north of Mt. Pleasant. I am not thoroughly posted with respect to the Wesleyan University. I believe it is a very good institution though. I am acquainted with the two Jamisons attending there who are very promising young men. I do not know whether there are any Greek associations there or not. I think it doubtful. The State University at Iowa City, is a flourishing Institution, I believe. I attended there a short time, two years since. I believe there are some young men of talent and considerable ability there. But whether it would be advisable for us to enter there or not I am not prepared to say. I think they take the Institution at Ann Arbor as their model, and if their boys would prove no truer than those at Ann Arbor, I should say that we do not want them.

F. C. WILSON, WASHINGTON, VA., TO WM. F. BOYD, OHIO.

LEXINGTON, VA., January 9th, 1866.

Rho is still increasing slowly. We now number eight men in college, and two, Brother Myers and myself in town. I think our new men are all Greeks. They certainly are enthusiastic Betas. The Kappas are trying their best to "sell" us but as yet they have not done it. There is one man whom we have elected but are afraid to propose to him as he has rather too much to do with them. He would make a fine Beta. There is also a new concern here which seems to have opened wide its arms and taken in almost everybody. They have about twenty men. Of

course they will soon ply out. There have been two other Societies here in time past, but they seem to be now defunct. I wrote some time ago to Prof. Holladay of Zeta but have not heard from him yet. I have written again to a member of our chapter who is now at the Theological Seminary near Hampden Sidney, I hope he will take some steps to revive Zeta. Omicron is now flourishing. I heard from them lately, they have sold the $\Phi K \Psi$'s even worse than we did. They found their records in time to make off lists for the new catalogue. We too recovered some of our archives that we had supposed lost. They were sent us by a sister of one of our members who is deceased. Our seal was among them, also a copy of the proceedings of the Convention of 1860, which you say you never received. We will return your kindness to us and send you a copy as soon as we have leisure to copy it off. I am very sorry the time of meeting of the next convention is in May, that is during our session, and neither Myers nor myself can get off so that I fear we will be unrepresented. I fear that will be the case with all the chapters in Virginia as the vacation in our institutions is from the 1st of July to some time in October. Several of our men would like to attend it if the time was only during their vacation. Why was the change made, the old time was in August.

I should like above all things to be able to attend another convention. I look back with intense pleasure to the hours I spent in Columbus in 1860. There I met men whom I have never seen or heard of, yet with whom I felt perfectly at home. No doubt the convention at Cincinnati will be a jolly one.

EDWARD THOMSON, JR., OHIO WESLEYAN, TO ARCHIBALD M.
OSBORN, OHIO.

DELAWARE, OHIO, January 16, 1866.

Your kind favor of late date was received last evening. Be so kind as to tender Kappa my sincere thanks for the honor they have conferred upon me in choosing me to found the new chapter at Springfield. I have written to my friend Darlington telling that if it will be convenient for them, I will found the Chapter on next Friday evening. As soon as it is done, I will write and give you just as you request "full particulars."

Our chapter has not yet taken any action with regard to the University of "Mississippi" because none of us know anything about the institution. Can you inform us about its rank and give us a general idea of its prospects?

There are two of the leading chapters with whom we are not in communication for the reason that they will not answer our letters, Delta and Mu. It is shameful the way they act. The next time you write to them, I hope you will state how we feel and also tell them that we do not intend to write till they answer our last letters.

A few days before the close of last term, I formed the acquaintance of a Mr. French, a senior at your institution, who said that he came up for the purpose of making the acquaintance of the seniors of our institution. But I have understood lately that it was for the purpose of founding a chapter of his fraternity, Delta Tau Delta. Do you know anything about it? I spoke to him of you saying that you and Professor Boyd were the only numbers of our fraternity that I was acquainted with and he remarked that he knew you well. How does his fraternity stand at Athens? None of his new pledges have come out with pins on, but it has been conjectured that nearly all are Freshmen.

JOSIAH WELCH, JEFFERSON, TO WM. F. BOYD, OHIO.

CANONSBURG, PENN., January 20, 1866.

Gamma Chapter has not heard from Kappa for a long time. So we take this opportunity to drop you a few lines. We think in order to keep up a friendly and brotherly feeling in our Association we must hear from each other occasionally; especially as we are so near each other. We have several Betas belonging to this Chapter from Ohio.

Our Chapter is in a flourishing condition. We have nine members here at this department and six at the Washington Department, of the College. We are pretty well represented in the coming performances, having two men, the Oration for February 22d and one on the Contest in the spring.

I don't know how Beta Theta Pi will flourish here in the future, as fraternities have become an intolerable nuisance at this Institution. There are some eight or ten fraternities and some

mighty hard ones. In fact the course of some has been such as to call forth an action of the College trustees, and they have passed a law against Secret Societies. Of course ours cannot be an exception. We will have to suffer in common with the others. Of course we could hold our organization but then we don't wish to do anything against the interest of the Institution, and we are fully persuaded that it would be much better if there was not a fraternity here. Yet a College would not be injured if all the fraternity men were Betas. We have two professors, Betas. They advise us to sustain the trustees. But then we are Betas and we expect to still remain Betas.

EDWARD THOMSON, OHIO WESLEYAN, TO ARCHIBALD M. OSBORN,
OHIO.

DELAWARE, O., February 2, 1866.

I left here on the afternoon of January the 18th for Springfield, Ohio, accompanied by Brother Mouser. We arrived at our point of destination before supper, were met at the train by Charles Darlington, the leading man of the chapter, who escorted us to the principal hotel of the city. The various candidates for membership visited us. At 8 p. m., we were taken to a large back room of Brother Gunn's Book Store where we met several of the other members now residents, among them, Mr. Mower, a lawyer, formerly of your chapter. I talked to them quietly about the candidates for membership and they told us that they stood high in college. One is a junior, three are sophomores and one is a freshman, and three of them have had propositions from the Φ K Ψ .

I went through the ceremony of initiation at 8:30 and at 9 we adjourned to an oyster saloon and, of course, had an excellent time. After this proceeding the Gamma Gamma boys met, elected officers and copied the copy of the constitution I had with me.

Their Corresponding Secretaries are James P. Whitmore and F. C. Hornel. They gave me orders for one ream of Beta paper and twenty catalogues. They are a live set of boys. I heard from Charlie Darlington yesterday. They have taken in a new man of great talent and have written to most of the chapters. They are all now members of the church.

DAVID W. THOMAS, INDIANA ASBURY, TO WM. F. BOYD, OHIO.

GREENCASTLE, IND., Feb. 3, 1866.

Your last letter was received and read before the Chapter with pleasure and profit to all. I agree with you in your views of the Corresponding Secretary's duty. Though I have not had the office as long as you, yet I feel that it taxes my time very much, and as I have been very busy for a few weeks past, I have been neglecting some of my correspondence.

Delta, is still moving along in the good old way. We have recently admitted two new men into the mysteries of Old Beta. We now number nine and a good prospect ahead.

The catalogues will not be forthcoming, Iota writes us until after the Convention in May; they are deferred on account of the Southern Chapters. We received a letter from "Nu" at Monmouth, Ill. The child though young seems to be healthy and prosperous. We also received a letter from Omicron asking our opinion of the "Roll of Honor" and desiring that it be done away with or else Soldiers of the South admitted. We replied that we thought that the best way would be to have the proper rank and title given to all omitting the "U. S. A." and "C. S. A."

We have not heard from Bethany though we have written twice. Neither have we heard from Beloit, or Williamstown. I have also written to Beta twice without any reply, and also to Omega. Do you hear from them and if so give me the names of their Corresponding Secretaries.

We gave our vote in favor of establishing a Chapter at the State University of Iowa. We, too, are anxious to establish Chapters wherever we can in justice to ourselves. I do not know much in regard to the Wesleyan Institution of which you spoke. Suppose you write your uncle and ascertain what the standing and the prospects are and if favorable we will "go in." The Beta song book remains in *statu quo*. However, the boys are beginning to stir about a little in that direction. There is no musical talent in our Chapter but, we will give you the best we have or can get if all the other Chapters will help. Write us two or three songs. The songs are the life of a Chapter meeting.

WILL W. EASTMAN, HANOVER, TO WILLIAM F. BOYD, OHIO.

HANOVER, IND., Feb. 12, 1866.

Yours of the 4th inst., was received several days since, and it has remained unanswered until now, simply because there is nothing of any great interest to communicate.

Iota is pursuing the even tenor of her way. For once there is a favorable prospect of one session going by without any opposition from the barbarians and it may be that their enmity is altogether at an end, as we have won the faculty over to our cause, not by sycophancy, but by prompt fearless argument and it was with them that the origin of all our previous troubles existed.

We are only seven strong now, and no prospect of any increase this year. The college is deteriorating in the number of its students, yet I do not apprehend that a sufficient number, possessed of the necessary qualifications will not always be present to sustain a small chapter.

The Phi Gamma Delta sustains a large chapter but the qualifications for membership in that fraternity are evidently not very select. We have not yet chosen a speaker to address the societies at commencement, the graduating class consists of but five.

Jenkins writes us that he will have to abandon for some years at least, the idea of a publication of the proposed work on "secret societies in college," but advises us to go on and compile and publish a history of our own order, and at some future time a condensed work will doubtless be published. All the fraternities are very eager for such a work.

The Southern chapters ask that the rank of officers above the grade of colonel of the C. S. A., be affixed to their names in the catalogue. We have already gone so far as to drop the "roll of honor," and do not feel that we have any authority for taking this additional responsibility upon ourselves. There is a general disposition to grant their request. Some propose to affix the ranks of officers of both armies alike, omitting U. S. A. and C. S. A. We desire the instruction of chapters on the following points, *&c.*

1st. Shall the catalogue be published immediately or not till after the convention?

2nd. If immediately, shall the request of the southern chapters be granted?

The convention of 1865 adjourned to meet on the first Tuesday of May at such place as the presiding chapter shall appoint. So you see we have nothing to do with fixing the time.

Have you a chapter of Phi Gamma Delta at Athens?

I heard a remark made by one of their members lately which led me to infer you have. Enclosed find a photograph of your humble servant. It is from a negative taken more than a year since, just after I came home from the war.

List of corresponding secretaries of Beta Theta Pi.

Alpha—Oxford, Ohio, R. T. Durrell.

Beta—Hudson, Ohio, F. S. Hanford.

Gamma—Canonsburg, Pa., Josiah Welch.

Delta—Greencastle, Ind., D. W. Thomas.

Theta—Delaware, O., J. Y. Rusk.

Kappa—Athens, O., W. F. Boyd.

Mu—Lebanon, Tenn., R. W. Pritchett.

Nu—Monmouth, Ills., Jas. E. Moffatt.

Xi—Galesburgh, Ills., J. A. Adams.

Omicron—University of Virginia, Va., Jno. T. Wise.

Pi—Bloomington, Ind., E. R. Harrison.

Rho—Lexington, Va., Henry H. Myers.

Tau—Crawfordsville, Ind., J. H. Meter.

Omega—Annapolis, Md., B. H. Buckingham.

JOHN H. PATERSON, MIAMI, TO WILLIAM F. BOYD, OHIO.

OXFORD, OHIO, February 21, 1866.

A letter was handed me today by Brother McSureley, when I was apprised for the first time that I had been negligent in my duties as Correspondent in not writing to you since last fall. If you remember correctly, it was not characteristic of our chapter to delay answering letters from Kappa last year, but then we numbered six, whereas we can now master but one-third of that, Brother Durrell and your humble servant. Now for the whys and wherefores of this depletion in our ranks. First, we lost three on account of their seniority, and Brother Morton failed to return last year. We endeavored our utmost to recruit our

chapters to our old numbers, but all the men who came here that we would be willing to call Greeks came under the influence of other fraternities, and ere we had time to make their acquaintance, they were swung out. However, these have been very few, I assure you. I have never seen such a poor class of students here since my connection with the institution, and that has not been brief. And where we have no good material we are unable to effect anything. There are at present five secret organizations here, which has used up almost all the material good and bad. What would suit one society would not suit another, for instance, the Alphas ($\Delta \Delta \Phi$) seek men on account of their scholarship, the $\Delta K E$ take into consideration his influence in hall and electioneering ability, the $\Delta T \Delta$ rank their men by number, believing that at the ballot box all men "are free and equal." This organization was originated for the advancement of a certain individual only. And so on for the remainder. What we require before we consent to put the badge upon a man you all know.

I presume you would like to know what the prospects for maintaining the society is for next year. Brother Durrell, being a senior, will not be back, but your humble servant being one year his junior will, should nothing interfere, keep the flag floating for at least one year more.

I suppose you are aware that the convention meets the second Tuesday in May at Cincinnati. From all reports I think there will be a large response. Iota sends all of her members. Alpha will do likewise, and endeavor to bring a new recruit if possible. As you were very much interested in the welfare of $\Delta T \Delta$ last fall, I will merely state that they "took in" a great many who were refused by all other fraternities here, and as a fraternity do not stand high. Although, they have a good man for their *pater primus*.

I received a very kind letter from Beta a few days ago which I propose to answer this afternoon. The tone of the letter was quite changed from the one received last year, although written by the same person.

EZEKIEL M. McDONALD, INDIANA, TO WILLIAM F. BOYD, OHIO.

INDIANAPOLIS, March 24, 1866.

A list of the corresponding secretaries of Beta Theta Pi

having been sent me by the presiding chapter, with a request that I should write to them about the coming convention, I take this opportunity of doing so.

I write for the purpose of urging upon your chapter the vital necessity of sending at least one delegate to the coming convention, and send as many more as you possibly can, let there be a full representation. We want to make these barbarians throughout the country think that "Betaism" still lives. We want them to believe that the secession of no one chapter can break her strength or diminish her power.

I understand from the presiding chapter that ample preparations are being made to entertain all who may attend, and that the highest anticipations of the most sanguine will be satisfied. An orator and poet have been selected who will lend an interest to the occasion. I impress the necessity upon your chapter of sending delegates with full power to act as contingencies may arise. Write to all persons who have gone from your chapter and request them to be there.

I hope that you may take these suggestions in the spirit in which they are intended, for I am prompted by but one motive and that is the good of Beta Theta Pi.

ALBERT BAKER, VIRGINIA, TO W. F. BOYD, OHIO.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, April 3rd, 1866.

Since my last we have had six or eight additions to our chapter (I forget what our number then was), and now boast of seventeen as good Betas we imagine as the best. These six or eight are the *pick* of the University as we have been very careful in our selections and would not have increased our chapter to its present size, but for the fact that we have four or five competitors in the field and wish to keep even. The Phi Kappa Psi have a chapter here of about twenty members, and though "I say it, which should not" (I believe that's the way "Bill Arp" says it) they stand at the head of the list in a good many respects, but let me say here *en passant*, the Beta Theta Pi certainly carries the day in the literary societies, and you know the Washington and Jefferson societies of the University of Va. have no mean reputation. We have already furnished an intermediate

orator and one of our chapter will almost certainly take the *medal* given to the best debater whilst the list of Presidents, Monthly Orators, etc., shows many under Beta Theta Pi colors. The Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Delta Pi have each organizations here but they are very small and give us little or no trouble, still we have to keep our eyes open all the time. One of our recent letters says something about uniting with the Zeta Psi. (What do you know about it?) There are only three members here. I'm much afraid from present appearances we shall be unrepresented at the convention. Have written to several old members, but can't get any to consent to go. We should like very much if it could be postponed until summer, but suppose tis too late now. Do let us hear from you often, and if answers are not punctually received, don't put it on the ground of disinclination—for you can't imagine the difficulties under which an *ex-rebel student labors*.

WILLIAM W. EASTMAN, HANOVER, TO W. F. BOYD, OHIO.

HANOVER, INDIANA, April 12, 1866.

You will pardon me, I know, my apparent neglect of you, when you have learned the cause. I have been busy for some time in preparing Iota's report for the convention, and in work on the catalogue, and found it necessary to give up correspondence to an assistant. I did not have any idea until last night, upon receiving your letter, that you had not been written to, and furnished with all the particulars known concerning the approaching convention. The Brother who was to write to you informs me that (being a new member) he did not know the technicalities of certain matters of which he was to inform you, was away from college, and intended to write as soon as he returned and could gain the necessary information, which was not till last evening. He then begged that I would answer your last letter, which I willingly do though now much pressed by college duties.

Among the questions to be presented at the Convention, are *first* of all a total revision of the constitution. The proposition may be so extensive as to embrace even the passwords, in fact everything by which we are now distinguished among even ourselves. The reason which will be urged is that J. Barnes Root,

Jr. and Co., presented a copy of our constitution to Psi Upsilon when they deserted to that fraternity and the latter have had it published, and there are now a hundred or more copies of it at Ann Arbor and other places in barbarian hands. Secondly a union with a powerful eastern fraternity, the Zeta Psi. The reasons for this are substantially the same. The proposition comes from Zeta Psi herself, through Brother John A. Kellar.

For my part, I am of the opinion that if ever there was a time when B Θ II was able to fight her own battles under her old standards and motto, now is the time. Put the energy and time to work in keeping secret our sacred trusts, in extending our borders, and taking into our circle the talent of the land; that would be necessary to secure another constitution equal to the one we now have and we need not fear the opposition of any enemies, let them fight, with any weapons they choose.

We might, I think, make some immaterial amendments, or some for which there is a peculiar need, and from this manage to let the opinion become prevalent that we have entirely revised our constitution, and thus make copies now in improper hands valueless to those who hold them.

I inform you of these matters in order that you may have time to consider them, and instruct your delegate accordingly. I believe you are already posted in regard to the catalogue questions, and their bearing upon our relations with the Southern chapters. Pray, come to the convention in a conciliatory frame of mind; remember that the Southerners have not offended against the spirit of our order; if it were a political organization, it would be different, but as it is, J. B. Root & Co., are the kind of rebels we as Betas are called upon to hate. My desire upon this question is that all mention of officers or soldiers on either side be omitted in the present edition, and then when the prejudice and hard feeling on both sides has become softened we may if desirable, regulate the matter in the next catalogues.

We have secured the services of a poet for the convention (Col. Black of Delta) and his poem is about half completed. We wrote to both Schuyler Colfax and James Harlin, and invited them to address us, but they replied that public duties rendered it impossible to go so far away from the capital. We have since written to several others, from whom we have not heard, our

main hope now lies in Hon. Stanley Matthews, who has an unblemished reputation as a gentleman, scholar and Christian, and is moreover a zealous Greek; an address from him would add a tone to the convention which one from no other source would. We hope that Kappa will be there *en masse*.

I am afraid you will consider me as a chap with slight Southern proclivities, but you will be mistaken, I did feel something drawing me that way, so long as there was an armed rebel in the land and obeyed my inclination, until I became so seriously disabled as to make a return unavoidable. I am radically anti-slavery, and the kind feeling I express for rebels and copperheads in this are not sympathy for the late rebellion or its abettors, but love for "all who bear the name or wear the badge of B @ II."

Brother Kellar says he has in his possession a copy of the Constitution of the Ψ Υ which he proposed to submit to the convention as an instrument to hold that body of villains in check.

LOUIS H. JACKSON, IOWA, TO WILLIAM F. BOYD, OHIO.

IOWA CITY, IOWA, May 3rd, 1866.

About the first day of January of the present year I received a letter from you asking for information regarding the University established here. I wrote immediately, but in looking over my letters I do not seem to have a second letter from you, or from your chapter.

I have just returned from Illinois, finding two letters for me from Beta sources and at once proceed in what I conceive to be the good work in view. Knowing Kappa to be presiding chapter now, I will at once give you information in so far as lies in my power, of the actions that have been taken by the different chapters now in active existence. I have received many letters from Iota, and on the 20th of March, one stating that five chapters had voted in the affirmative and one negatively. Since then I think several other chapters have voted and all affirmatively. I shall write today to Iota to send you information.

In order to establish a chapter we must have the affirmative votes of ten chapters, that is, if fourteen chapters are in active existence. There are a great many Betas in the State and some half dozen within call, four of us living here in the City.

We have decided among ourselves not to wait any longer but to assemble and hold meetings and get the thing in working order by the time the consent reaches us, and then we will be all ready to take in new members. You must encourage us by hurrying things through and having the chapter *vote immediately*. I have written letter after letter to the chapters, and sincerely wish the matter might be disposed of immediately.

I do not fear as to the way they will vote but as to *when*. Beta votes affirmatively, also Delta, Theta and Kappa (of course) Tau and Iota, leaving no vote from the other chapters. Now four other chapters may have voted and if so all is well. I think Alpha, Gamma and Pi have voted. Please let me know how the matter stands.

Our school term closes about the middle of June. I must have a positive answer by that time. It is possible as I have said that enough of the chapters have voted. Let me know immediately. Please have the non-voting chapters write, giving their decision without asking for further information. They cannot help but vote *right*. I received a letter from Hanford of Beta and Clark of Theta. Perhaps not all the chapters are active, if so it would give me an additional advantage.

CHARLES A. TURNER, OHIO WESLEYAN, TO WILLIAM F. BOYD,

DELAWARE, OHIO, May 10, 1866.

As I expected, Mr. Rusk has already attempted to make a Report of the proceedings of the Convention, misrepresenting the matter concerning the expulsion of Mr. Stevens, *viz.* 1st. He stated that it was, and so intended a reflection upon the Theta Chapter. 2nd. That it might have been avoided, had Mr. Thompson and myself acted in conjunction with him, for the best interest of the Fraternity, and good of Theta Chapter. 3rd. He charges the whole matter to Mr. Brouse, a "hot headed and stubborn young man," (his exact language) Mr. Thompson and your humble servant, as being the instigators, *i. e.*, prime movers, having concocted the whole scheme.

In answer to the first charge, you will remember that it is groundless, inasmuch as it was settled to the satisfaction of the Convention that nothing of the kind was intended, and the word

“present” was substituted for “consulted,” so as not to reflect upon the chapter, and all who voted for the Resolution did so without any design or reflection upon Theta.

As to the second charge, you will remember that Mr. Brouse introduced the subject and that it was debated whether it was a matter for the convention or chapter (Theta) to act upon and that was settled satisfactorily, *i. e.*, the Convention. Therefore Mr. Thomson and myself were justified in our actions, voting what we knew to be right, and as to its being avoided, had Theta's vote gone in the negative it would not have been amounted to anything, so the second charge does not amount to anything.

His third charge is conniving when we knew it would disgrace the chapter. You will not forget that when the question was brought up in the afternoon, I was absent, and knew nothing of it until informed in the evening, when I was told that quite an exciting debate had sprung up, upon the introduction of the subject.

The impression left upon the minds of some of the members of our chapter was that Mr. T and myself had acted in a manner unbecoming gentlemen so to reflect discredit upon our chapter.

I understand Mr. Rusk in conversation with some of the delegates stated that the reason that Mr. Thompson was not present was that his resignation was upon consideration, and that a number of times he threatened to leave, and join what is here known as the Phi Kappa Psi. This is not so. The simple facts in the case are these. The Chapter at that time was composed of spirits uncongenial to Mr. T. and after receiving many insults, immediately upon the Fraternity receiving Mr. Stevens, he consulted with Prof. McCabe and the latter advised him (from his knowledge of the Chapter) to withdraw and join some other chapter. He proposed your chapter, as he (Prof. McCabe), was a member of the same. Mr. Thompson accordingly sent in his resignation (this was after the admission of Mr. Stevens). But upon a more mature deliberation he concluded to withdraw it and stand by the Theta Chapter, and did so, although abused time and time again by Mr. Rusk in Fraternity Meetings (this I know to be a fact, as I have been a witness of it, on more than a half dozen occasions). But, I am happy to state to you that he

has to respect him now, as we have quite a number of members and most of them Mr. T's friends. At the time of Mr. R.—abused Mr. T. so we only had four or five members. Yet, Sir, with all these troubles to discourage him, he has remained true to B Θ II.

Mr. Rusk's "Report" was laid over until our next meeting (next week) that Mr. T. and myself might be able to refute his charges. If you would give a report of the whole matter, as soon as possible, so that I could lay before the chapter, I would be under many obligations. Also, please send me the name of the delegate from Alpha, and let me know if Mr. Rusk spoke anything concerning Mr. Brown's character to you.

FROM WILLIAM F. BOYD, OHIO, TO CHARLES A. TURNER, OHIO
WESLEYAN.

ATHENS, O., May 14, 1866.

I cannot but regret that an occasion should make it necessary for me to refer again to a subject which all along has been a painful one. Yet if I can do anything whatever that will help to create a better understanding among members of Theta or advance the interests of B Θ II in any way I will gladly do it. With regard to the statement which you alleged has been made by Brother John Y. Rusk, that the action of the Convention was intended as a reflection on the Theta chapter I can only say that I think he is entirely mistaken. I conversed with most of the delegates with reference to the matter yet I did not hear one of them make any reflections on Theta or speak in any way disparagingly of her. As for myself I am sure that I thought only of our common Order without any intention of reflecting on any Chapter of our common Brotherhood. I remember that in the motion the word "*present*" was substituted for "Consulted" so that it might be incapable of being construed as reflecting on your chapter. I remember that when the subject was introduced it was debated whether it was a matter for the action of the Convention or of Theta Chapter only and was decided to be properly the business of the Convention. Whatever may have been the conduct of yourself and Brother Thompson toward others I can freely say that you made no statements to me with regard to it only as I

inquired concerning it. Although I voted for the motion I think that my action was not at all influenced by any statements of yourself and Brother Thompson only as they were agreed to by Brother Rusk. No Beta intimated to me that he considered your conduct or Brother Thompson's as reflecting on your Chapter nor do I think anyone thought of such a thing.

WILL W. EASTMAN, HANOVER, TO WM. F. BOYD, OHIO.

HANOVER, IND., May 18, 1866.

You are now owing me a letter, but I can well imagine that you have your hands full—copying convention minutes, etc., etc. Well do I know how to sympathize with you. I myself, have more to do now than I can attend to, as all the chapter lists have to be recopied, and the burden of Iota's work always falls upon my shoulders. It is now 6 p. m., and I have learned my lessons for tomorrow, written three letters, and copied fifteen pages of foolscap for the catalogue—this afternoon, and expect to copy as much more tonight, yet the work will not be more than one-quarter completed.

I suppose you are anxious to know the votes of chapters on the questions before them. As to the Chapter at Iowa State University, Affirmative: Alpha, Gamma, Delta, Theta, Kappa, Nu, Rho, Tau, Iota. Negative: Pi: As to the Diplomas: Affirmative: Alpha, Theta, Kappa, Pi, Iota: Negative: Beta.

It only needs one more vote to establish the Chapter at Iowa City.

We have ordered new plates for the frontispiece and badge cut to be engraved for the catalogue and 800 copies of the engravings printed at \$156.00 or \$12.00 per chapter. Omega was omitted from this computation as we have not succeeded in hearing from her since Oct. 8th, 1865 and fear she is defunct.

Please remit the \$12.00 as soon as possible. Also your chapter list. We should like to receive a copy of the minutes of convention at your earliest convenience, though I suppose there is no need of hurrying you up on that. Send orders to Bro. E. R. Monfort for as many copies of the poem of Col. Black as you wish. The address is E. R. Monfort, No. 25 W. 4th St., Cincinnati, Ohio. The Catalogues will cost 85 cents per copy, *after* the plates are paid for. They will be printed the very finest style.

List of C. Secretaries of Beta Theta Pi.

CHAPTERS.	POST OFFICE.	C. SECRETARIES.
Alpha	Oxford, Ohio	<i>Jno. H. Patterson.</i>
Beta	Hudson, Ohio	<i>F. S. Hanford.</i>
Gamma	Canonsburgh, Pa.	<i>Josiah Welch.</i>
Delta	Greencastle, Ind.	<i>Olin R. Brouse.</i>
Theta	Delaware, Ohio	<i>J. Y. Rusk.</i>
Kappa	Athens, Ohio	<i>W. F. Boyd.</i>
Mu	Lebanon, Tenn.	<i>R. W. Pritchett.</i>
Nu	Monmouth, Ill.	<i>Jas. E. Moffatt.</i>
Xi	Galesburg, Ill.	<i>Frank M. Hayner.</i>
Omicron ...	University of Va., Va. ...	<i>Jno. T. Wise.</i>
Pi	Bloomington, Ind.	<i>E. R. Harrison.</i>
Rho	Lexington, Va.	<i>James P. Carbin.</i>
Tau	Crawfordsville, Ind.	<i>J. Farrand Tuttle.</i>
Omega	Annapolis, Md.	<i>B. H. Buckingham.</i>
Iota	Hanover, Ind.	<i>F. Trigg, T. V. Thornton, J. E. P. Whallon.</i>

F. C. WILSON, WASHINGTON, VA., TO WM. F. BOYD, O.

LEXINGTON, VA., May 19, 1866.

I am getting somewhat impatient to hear from you again but think I have no right to complain concerning the delay in writing my last. A little more than two months ago I wrote enclosing a copy as I promised of the proceedings of the Convention of 1860. I am fearful from your not writing that you may not have received the letter as the Mails and Postmasters in this section now seem to be so unreliable. Supposing that you would be at the Convention I asked you to write immediately after it and give me all the points. This is what makes me so impatient to hear from you. I received by the last mail a bundle of the Indianapolis Journals containing an account of it. We are very anxious to hear what was done as in all probability it will be a month or two before we receive the minutes. Will you not write and give me an account of the whole proceedings?

We are still prospering, brought forth a new member at our last meeting. We had also as a guest a true Greek, from the

University at Virginia. He gives a glowing report of all of them there. "Rho" sends greetings.

FROM OLIN R. BROUSE, INDIANA ASBURY, TO WM. F. BOYD,
OHIO.

GREENCASTLE, IND., May 29, 1866.

Those Catalogues (six) came duly, for which we are obliged. Our boys are abundantly satisfied with the result of the Convention and though they rather expected Delta to have the presidency and desired it they cheerfully and cordially endorse my yielding to Kappa when the question was up. Let us each do our duty and all is well. There is no unpleasant feeling on any account. My course in Stevens case was fully endorsed and so was all the rest of our proceedings. We anxiously await the secretary's record so as to copy it and know it all officially. I stopped at Oxford on my way home. Had a good time. I will long remember my Cincinnati chapter-meeting and the sacred ties there formed.

We will not be able to do justice in getting out our Song Book till fall, because with all our efforts we have not yet the desired songs. Many are promised but not here. Let us have it right when it comes. This is the most busy time of the year and this is why we have not yet had the songs in time. If Kappa thinks as we do, let us know. We will push it through as best we can so that next fall there will be no further delay. We have now only about six songs not in Beta Chapter's song book and ought to have twenty or more. They are promised and will come in time. Give us your Betaism in verse, and set to some familiar air. That is what we want in each song.

The honors of the class of "66" in Asbury were decided yesterday. My old enemy in the Societies (Waltz) has the valedictory—a Φ Γ Δ and Town a Φ K Φ has the Salutatory but though Dunbar's marks were below these on account of absences, for a compliment to his ability and attainments a new honor has been devised for him, *viz*, a "Philosophical Oration." He is a Β Θ Π the star of Asbury. This was unexpected but *very gratifying*.

F. C. WILSON, WASHINGTON LEE, TO W. F. BOYD, OHIO.

LEXINGTON, VA., June 9, 1866.

Yours of May 24th was received several days ago, and glad

was I to be able once again to be in communication with one to whom I have become so much attached in the short time that we have been acquainted. Yet now I feel almost as if we had been school boys together, and to hear me in our circles speak of having received a letter from my friend Boyd, you would suppose that such had been the case. Another illustration of the power of our glorious order. It would be gratifying I know to you to see the pleasure manifested when a letter is announced from Kappa and the eagerness with which the circle draw nearer so as to hear more distinctly, for they all know Boyd almost as well as I. You were right in supposing that I would have liked to have been at Convention and not the least of my pleasures would have been that I could meet you and the rest of your circle. I attended one Convention that of 1860 and I shall always look back upon it as one of the pleasantest incidents of my life. There is something strange in the feeling of perfect confidence, the cordial and easy manner with which those meet who have never met before. A spectator would suppose that they had been raised together and met after a long separation. No one could be more sorry than we that Rho could not have a representation there. None of those now in connection with the chapter could possibly get off from duty, and we made many fruitless efforts to secure a delegate from among our old members. I am sorry that you did not succeed in getting the time changed back again to summer, for I fear that the same thing will occur again. The time comes just in the midst of our hardest preparation for examination and so much depends in graduation upon the final examinations that the loss of the few days then would be fatal to all hopes of getting a diploma. I am sorry that Washington, D. C., was not selected, for we could have had all the Virginia Chapters there *en masse* and all the other chapters fully represented.

I am anxious to hear what was done at the Convention, what changes were made in the Constitution, etc., but I hope to receive in a few days from you the minutes, and I assure you we fully appreciate the trouble you take to oblige us. I am glad that we could reciprocate your kindness to the small extent of sending you the minutes of our Convention.

I have always thought that the official business of the presiding chapters has been done in entirely too loose a manner, and

that there should have been a record book kept for the purpose of recording all the business done as presiding chapters to be handed over the next presiding chapter, etc. To obviate that difficulty, I have sometimes thought that it would be well either to have a permanent presiding chapter or at least to extend its term to four or five years. You will hardly have time to get any business fairly under way until you will have turn it over to someone else.

Several months ago, we proposed as a fit institution for establishing a chapter the State University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. It is a University of high standard and prosperous having about 250 students. We have a man in our chapter from Mobile, Ala., who would have abundant opportunity for selecting suitable men to start it. Please see that this matter is acted on at once. We thought too of proposing Mississippi University, but are waiting to collect more information about it before proposing it. I think with you that our borders should be extended and strengthened not only by the establishment of more chapters but by the resuscitation of the inactive ones. I am sorry I can only give you the date of the foundation of our own chapter, *vis.*, 19th of May, 1856. I enclose one dollar, many thanks for the package of papers sent to my address. Where will you be next year? I expect to be at the University of Virginia with Omicron, studying medicine. Let me hear from you again, and tell me of your success at commencement.

ALBERT MCCALLA, MONMOUTH, TO WILLIAM F. BOYD, OHIO.

MONMOUTH, ILLS., June 11, 1866.

Our Semi-Annual Elections are held on the last Tuesdays before Christmas and the 1st of June, so as to have our new officers installed before the Seniors leave for their ante commencement vacation, and our new officers are as follows: H. R. McClelland, president; Tom Barclay, recorder; Albert McCalla and L. S. F. Palmer, corresponding secretaries and Eli Carithers, treasurer.

Our Seniors have departed for a time to write their orations for commencement and the college and our "Beta Night" seems lonely without them, at least to me as my most intimate chums were in that class.

Old Beta Theta Pi will stand high and do nobly at commencement. Our three Seniors have the three first honors, as follows: 1st. Tom Shaver of Peoria, the Valedictory. 2nd. Jim Moffet of Bloomington, the Latin Salutatory and 3rd. Joe Gordon of Smithville, the English Oration. And all the girls are praising, the whole College is enjoying and we are all proud of B Θ Π. We have three Juniors for next year's show and if they don't take the three first honors, they will not fall far behind. One of the Δ T Δ takes the third rank in the scientific course which we do not at all envy him. We Betas profess to try for something higher. These Δ T Δ's are the only rivals we have as yet, and they are a nondescript multitudinous concern of about thirty-five members including nearly everybody in college in fact that would have anything to do with them. I heard of a young lady the other day who when asked by another "who were the Deltas" answered "Oh, everybody in College except the Betas and a few who were not quite good enough for the Betas, but who held themselves too good for the Deltas." They have lately devoted themselves to running elections in the literary societies, but they pursued their game so boldly running a Delta ticket for everybody and supporting very inferior men for no other reason than that they were Deltas, that they got all the outsiders down on them and they have nothing to depend on now but their own large force of voters. While we Betas have studiously refrained from any participation in the strife, not attempting to run any Beta ticket through, have gained the friendship and support of all the barbarians and are being put on for honors without any effort on our part. Phelps, one of our Juniors, has been elected to be the post of debater from our Philo Society for the annual contest next December. The highest honor in the gift of Society. I had the honor of being elected to serve against my desire, in two lesser though no important offices. Thus, old Beta manages to keep at the top of the pile by honorable means. We have taken a new lease of life since the Convention, if indeed it were possible for us to be more enthusiastic over Betaism than we always are.

TERRY H. CAHAL, CUMBERLAND, TO WILLIAM F. BOYD, OHIO.

LEBANON, TENN., September 18, 1866.

The last list of corresponding secretaries which we received

designates yourself as the secretary of Kappa. Possibly some other Beta may now fill the position, but nevertheless whether to you or some other true Greek we send the word of welcome. You are the presiding chapter this year. We bid you God speed in your great work, feeling fully assured that the duties of the position will be well and ably performed.

Our collegiate year has just opened. We have representatives here from all parts of the South. The prosperity of our institution is on the increase, and we hope before long to occupy the same position as in days of yore.

As for old Mu she stands now as in the days of yore far ahead of any other secret organization here. Her worthy members fully appreciate the duties and the obligations of Betaism. Quality not quantity is our motto. To become a member of our chapter here a student must shine preeminent above his fellows socially, morally, intellectually, and in lofty, ambitious purpose. It is necessary that such should be our standard, for Betaism its living, breathing reality is founded in honor, and based upon the precepts of religion.

We have not as yet opened a correspondence this fall, with any of the chapters. I write to you now to request that you will on the immediate receipt of this, send me the latest list of corresponding secretaries. We wish to open a correspondence with all the chapters. Situated as we are, an active and efficient correspondence is the only way to bind and unite us together. This matter seems to have been neglected very much recently, and Mu is as much to blame as any other chapters. Can you not give them a little advice about it? There is much which we wish to talk to Kappa about. But we will not discuss them in this letter for fear it may not reach you. The probability of the corresponding secretary being changed and hence a probability of the letter not being received, we think it best not to write even the password. Let us hear from you at once.

JAMES P. CORBIN, JR., WASHINGTON LEE, TO WILLIAM F. BOYD,
OHIO.

LEXINGTON, VA., Sept. 21, 1866.

Though I have oftentimes read with delight your letters to

Brother Wilson, I have never before tonight had the pleasure of writing to you. Rho begins her career this session under very favorable auspices. We have some nine or ten old members and have already admitted two new ones, both I hope will prove worthy to wear the badge of our glorious and time honored fraternity.

Though our prospects are good we have had several misfortunes befall us. One is that Brother Wilson will leave us very soon for the University of Virginia, where he will go to take the medical ticket. Our old school opens this session with about three hundred young men, from all parts of the South and a goodly number from the States north of the Potomac. No words express the feelings of pleasure which attended the reunion of our Chapter and how earnestly we wished for some true Betas like yourself to be present, and participate in our joy!

EDWARD THOMPSON, OHIO WESLEYAN, TO ARCHIBALD M. OSBORN, OHIO.

DELAWARE, OHIO, October 22, 1866.

Having been appointed Corresponding Secretary of Theta at our last meeting, and Brother Clarke having handed to me yesterday yours of the 9th, I proceed to reply. We are grateful for your kindness in furnishing us so full a list of Corresponding Secretaries. If you get it completed by the time you next write please send us the remaining names.

We have in College seven members at present. One the Vice-President of our University, Rev. L. D. McCabe formerly of your chapter, two seniors, three juniors and one sophomore. Our ranks have not been so thinned for a great while, but although we are few in numbers, we see some in the darkness of barbarity whom we think will soon be brought into the glorious Grecian light of Beta.

You say in your letter with regard to Springfield that you have written to a resident member of your chapter there. I suppose Brother J. K. Mower is the individual to whom you refer. I feel pretty confident you will receive a letter highly favorably to the proposition for Messrs. Darlington and Martyn brought with them when they came here to ask our chapter to assist them

in establishing a chapter at Wittenberg, a note of recommendation from that gentleman.

CHARLES DARLINGTON, WITTENBERG, TO HENRY C. WILL, OHIO.

SPRINGFIELD, O., October 28, 1866.

The boys of Gamma Gamma are doing finely. Political matters here for a while warmed us up considerable but now everything has resumed the old routine. The boys are busy counting up their gains and losses, your humble servant being out of pocket four dishes of oysters and a half dozen cigars. At the same time, however, he pockets a five dollar bill. By the bye, that reminds me of Brother Dowd's request "to quit playing euchre." *Horrible dictu.* I confess I have many faults. I seldom go to church, sometimes I say "dog gone it" and frequently "punch billiards" but for Heaven's Sake don't accuse me of playing euchre. A game which above all other I despise. Now if the good brother had said "Old Sledge" I might have taken it into serious consideration. How in the world he ever obtained such an idea I am at a loss to know. Give him my love. In accordance with your wish I kindly gave your remembrances to Frank Hornel, who blinked his eyes and said "return em" whether he meant to return yours or send his own, I don't know. As I have exposed to your view the vices of a brother Beta, I will say that Gamma Gamma has been ever since her existence trying to reform him, but I fear he will leave this year without having been redeemed. Xi chapter is already presiding and expects in a few days to send the minutes around which it seems have been printed.

There is a question to which the attention of every Beta might be called, and that is the extention of our borders. I tell you the same law which brings nations within its grasp and bids them to do its will embraces also Beta Theta Pi. There is in history a logic of events inexorable. It must obey the law of growth and decay. Are we exempt? Do we not in other colleges behold fraternities rise and fraternities fall? We must grow or wither and finally decay. Are not other fraternities continually extending their borders? Fraternities whose principles are naught but low mockeries, conceived in sin, and yet they

live. Universally we find that the Sigma Chi are a set of bummers, yet it has a national reputation. Look at the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity, an order of the fungus growth. It arose into existence just seventeen years ago, while we number twenty-nine years and yet behold its growth. Its extention west is as rapid as ours in many directions is slow. This should not be so. We need not establish chapters in every brick building that sports the title of "college," but there are plenty of institutions as good as any in our land in whose halls should be found the Beta Theta Pi. How get them there? Do like other fraternities. Have a commiteee for the extention of our borders.

Please send me a catalogue of your university with Betas marked and I will return the favor. Remember me kindly to all the boys. Did your chapter vote for or against the Virginia Military Institute?

EDWARD MCCONNELL, ILLINOIS COLLEGE, TO CRUGER W. SMITH,
OHIO.

JACKSONVILLE, ILLS., November 23rd, 1866.

Wm. M. Springer has referred a letter of yours to me making some inquiries about "Sigma Chapter" B Θ II. There is but one person in Jacksonville now, who is, or rather was a member of this chapter. I have been unable to find out anything from him in regard to the matters you write about. This person told me he had left the Society, and joined another, and I have been rather cautious how I approached him upon the matter. He, however, knows, as he says, nothing about the time Sigma became extinct, nor where her archives are. There are only two persons I can think of, who possibly would know what we want. One of them is now dead, and the other is somewhere on the Pacific Coast. But even if we could find the archives of Sigma I do not think it would be worth while making the attempt this year to revive the chapter in this College. Had I any children old enough, I should not consider them educated, if they only graduated at this College. The institution may be in good standing among a certain set, but outside of that set, you can hear my opinion corroborated at almost any moment. I judge of the students more from their appearance, than from any knowledge personally I have of them. They do not look like the students

of my college days and consequently, I may judge them wrongfully, but I do not think I do.

FROM F. C. WILSON, VIRGINIA, TO WILLIAM F. BOYD, OHIO.

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA., November 28, 1866.

Your welcome letter of November 20th was received several days ago, and I had the pleasure of reading it to the chapter. On the same day, I received a letter from Brother Smith of your chapter. I hope he will not feel offended because I answer your letter instead of his, seeing our long acquaintance (at least by letter). I look back with sincere pleasure at your letters of last year and I am looking forward with eagerness to the renewal of that pleasure. I only regret that the small amount of time left me from my studies this year compel me to give up the correspondence with the chapters which I had undertaken at the commencement of the session. I have however asked to retain Kappa as one chapter with which I shall correspond. My successors as corresponding secretaries are T. R. Mills and E. W. Hoge.

I hope this will satisfy you that I am still in the flesh. I am glad to hear that you are back at your old place though advanced to a better position in the Synagogue. I hope your tutorial duties do not keep you as busy as I am kept by the heavy medical course I have taken. I am trying to finish the course in a year though it looks like almost a hopeless task.

The Omicron chapter voted some time ago for the establishment of chapters at the University of Chicago and the University of Mississippi and at our last meeting we voted in favor of a chapter at Wittenberg College. The University at Oxford, Miss., is now one of the most flourishing institutions in the country, has from three to four hundred students, and its standard is high. The University of Alabama was also proposed. That has a high standard and would be a good place for a chapter. I have learned nothing of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Our chapter died out there a year before the war. The chapter at Hampden-Sidney is in a bad way. There are several of the barbarian societies there who have already taken in the men worth while and a good many more. There are only about sixty-five students. These societies were started before we had an opportunity of reviving the Zeta chapter. We have one Beta

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in the Theological Seminary at Hampden-Sidney and perhaps by urging the matter upon him, he may succeed in again raising the banner of the fraternity.

We are almost out of patience waiting for the convention minutes. I fear that they will not be received before the time for the next convention comes around. I think it would be a good idea to print them so as to be able to distribute them promptly. I fear that we will not be represented at the next convention. It comes in the middle of our college session and just as we are preparing for a final examination. I hope the time will be changed to July or August. Our chapter has sixteen good men. There are about 450 students at the university.

EDWARD THOMSON, OHIO WESLEYAN, TO ARCHIBALD M. OSBORNE, OHIO.

DELAWARE, OHIO, Dec. 4, 1866.

I requested Brother Mouser the Assistant Corresponding Secretary to write in answer to your last letter and gave him one of the several letters that I received from Springfield to enclose in it, showing you, thus how they felt upon the subject. As you say nothing about it I suppose you have not received it, and am very sorry on that account. I told him to inform you how that some of the chapters refused to vote on the subject of Springfield because you had not yet presented the matter and I instructed him to request you to please hurry up the matter. I wrote again to Springfield telling the boys to wait patiently, but have not received an answer yet. I hope we are not too late. It is surprising to me that some of our chapters should delay so long in voting on a subject of importance. I will consider it a great honor to organize the chapter at Springfield and will do as well as I can, should one be there established. Please let me know as soon as you receive votes sufficient and tell me the name by which it shall be called and I will go immediately and accomplish the pleasant task.

But now to the most important subject of your letter. Theta think it unnecessary to call a convention during the holidays, first because it is not a thing very extraordinary. A copy of our Constitution was stolen by a member of the Sigma Chi, copied and then returned. That copy is now in the possession of this fra-

ternity. They showed it here to many of our Beta Friends, but could affect nothing. The Phi Kappas here know our motto and grip yet that does no harm. I know the Sigma Chi grip and also the Phi Kap grip and motto and understanding their passwords and signs got into one of their meetings lately, yet they thrive. It is always expected that each society will act as a spy upon the other. And no reasonable person should wonder when one becomes acquainted with another's secret. But you say the pamphlet was published as a report of a committee on morals and that the names of females were introduced. Well, now this will do us no harm wherever there is a man who wears the Beta badge; for wherever they are found everyone knows them to be a gentleman guilty of no misdemeanor. No person of sense would think that Harlan, Morton, Colfax or Crary would belong to a mean organization. And where we are not known it makes no difference for no one will take enough interest to read the pamphlet who knows nothing of us. Then the constitution that was stolen had not in it the amendments adopted by the late convention, and we can justly deny that it is our Constitution. Then again we will have a new convention in the spring at any rate, and before the minutes of the convention could be adopted we would be called to another convention. But for fear I am wearying you, I will name but one more reason, it is this, that the less noise we make about this matter, the better it will be for us.

We have lately taken in two members and they desire to purchase pins. We have lost the address of the firm that makes them. Will you be so kind as to furnish them to us. We do not know where the University of Virginia is located and hence have not yet written there. Can you tell us? We lately received letters from Pi, Beta, Iota and Rho saying that they had voted in favor of Wittenberg. I mention this for fear that they had forgotten to inform you of the fact. Have you heard from Brother Patterson yet? Or do you know anything at all about Alpha?

D. GILBERT HAMILTON, INDIANA ASBURY, TO WILLIAM F. BOYD,
OHIO.

CHICAGO, December 7, 1866.

I received your letter in due season and at the first leisure moment I will attempt a reply though it must be hastily written—

I am attending a law school at the University but it is three miles from the College proper—I never have visited the school while in session—I gave your name to the Dean and he said he would send you a catalogue this evening. So it will go out sooner than if I waited for him to bring it to me and then have me send it—I learn there are about two hundred in attendance now, of which number there are nearly sixty in the College proper. The rest I believe are what they call at Greencastle, "Preps." I believe you call them "Pene-Freshmen."

Now as to the founding a chapter here. That matter was agitated last year and I thought, from what Iota said, that the matter was left to me for decision, and that as soon as I discovered timber I should send them word and then they would bring it up before the order. The first I heard of the proposition now before the order came from Galesburg. My own chapter kept quiet on the subject, probably not valuing my opinion as to the feasibility of founding the chapter. Now there are some three or four societies there now and of course they have taken the *best* material and left what we don't want. As far as I have seen the graduates take them as a class, I don't think they are over and above smart. In fact, I think the institution is now a third-rate college. It has a fine prospect but not now. The fact of the sparsity of numbers is an argument against having a chapter there. I should say emphatically "no" to it unless we had some good Beta there who had a good judgment, who could see and be with the students every day and select the right stripe. If it is proposed to build a chapter there by the Greeks here in town (and we have some eight I have met). I don't think the plan practicable. We cannot be where we can judge of the candidates. True we could form some opinion from their physiognomy but that is not a sure guide.

Ne crede colori—I believe Virgil says. I should sure like to know who purposes to start the chapter. Will you be kind enough to inform me how the proposition originated. I have no copy of the Constitution.

As to the names of the other Greeks here I cannot give you the first names but they are Leadbeater Δ, Helm B, Chandler, Coulter and Baxter Δ, Smith from Williams, and McCalla tho' present corresponding secretary of Greek Δ.

I had to fight the $\Phi \Gamma \Delta$ for three years and I know them of old. But let me tell you with all their meanness they do not hold a candle beside the $\Phi \Delta \Theta$, and it has a chapter here.

I learn from Δ that the Crawfordville boys have compromised the matter. The sum and substance of the matter is, the fraternity ought to have taken the matter in hand themselves and not left them to do it. I say there is no excuse for the negligence manifested at Tau. Nothing but gross negligence would ever have allowed that constitution to get out of their hands. I hope it will be a lesson.

I don't think it necessary to have a convention during the holidays seeing there is one to be held in May which is not far distant. I don't think it necessary for the boys to feel frightened over the turn of affairs for what if our secrets are known—it will not harm us. None of them have a constitution equal to ours. We need not be ashamed of it. I have seen quite a number of others—such as $\Delta \kappa \epsilon$, $\Phi \Delta \Theta$, and the famous $\Phi \Gamma \Delta$ which by the by is at Greencastle. At least I had it there. It is not worth publishing.

Our order has for its basis, such truths that they cannot but be admired. I think that we better not say a word about it but go on. I don't see why Hanover need feel so badly about it for in 1864 there was one of their number who turned renegade and told $\Phi \Gamma \Delta$ and all others all about us. They need not feel hurt. I should like to be at the next convention and will if my finances will warrant it. Delta kindly requested me to attend the last convention as delegate, but circumstances over which, etc., etc, prevented me—.

To sum up all this hurriedly written letter in a nutshell I will say. First: I should vote decidedly against founding a chapter here unless you have selected some one who will be sure and pick the right stripe. If the fraternity will vote for it and leave it with us Greeks here, we will see to it and if we do not find any material we will let the matter remain in *statu quo*. But I would not promise surely to start one here. Secondly: I am opposed to the convention, for if we have too many it will convey the impression that we are disturbed over matters which we ought not to fear—and then too, it consumes much time and money and if they become too common we lose interest in them

and especially in correspondence. I think this last ought to be kept up and in a lively manner. Every chapter ought to have at least two corresponding secretaries for one cannot keep it up as he ought. I had my hands full and had an assistant part of the time.

Now I believe in lying low in this matter of the stolen constitution. If we raise too big a noise the world will think we care about it. Keep low till May and then have a real good convention. If you have one in January you will find only a few chapters represented, for some will say that if we have one in May "we will go to that and not to this" and so in May those who go to this one will say "we went to the winter convention and we will stay away from this for nothing of importance will be done." Now this is a plausible statement for when the whole fraternity was in danger at the time of the Lambda affair not all the chapters sent delegates then. If that is the case how can you expect a full representation at the holidays? Every student wants to be home then and you will find they will not turn out nearly as well as you wish.

Besides there is something in the air of Indianapolis that is particularly bad for Beta conventions. I know of two conventions that were to meet there which were nothing more than "big drinks." Only a few came and the result was the rest all got tight—we don't want any more of that kind of "doings."

Evanston, you speak of in a letter to Brother Brouse. There is a college and Biblical institute there each independent of the other. The college has an immense endowment fund—but is very sickly, very. The valedictorian of my class at Greencastle is *Professor of Mathematics*. So you can judge the success of the institution. Some of the students have left and gone to the University here.

Now, my dear brother, I hope you can decipher this specimen of my hieroglyphics. I am hard pressed with engagements and I steal this time from supper to write. I hope I have in my running way answered all your enquiries.

Now that you have broken the ice I hope you will keep me informed occasionally as to Beta matters. I am a Greek warm in the cause and I tried last year to awaken an interest in the order. I hope your chapter in the exercise of its office will stir

up the fraternity from its deepest core and advance Betaism over the land.

CORTLAND L. KENNAN, WESTERN RESERVE, TO CRUGER W. SMITH, OHIO.

HUDSON, OHIO, December 12, 1866.

Your letter was received this morning and although we had already heard of the Crawfordsville affair, yet the circular you sent made us realize the matter in a far different manner from what the bare statement of the facts had. It was too much like our constitution to make the pill a very sweet one. I cannot find words strong enough to express my feelings, toward the Deltas, and so shall not undertake the job, but the next time I go down street, I shall have some youngster swear seventy-five cents worth for me. I called a meeting of the chapter immediately in receipt of your letter and laid the subject of a convention before them. The result was each one declared himself decidedly opposed to holding a convention until next April. We think nothing will be gained in the end. The next convention if held in April can do all that is necessary and the few weeks delay cannot hurt us any. It would inconvenience any one of us greatly to leave in term time, and we might not be able to be represented except at great personal sacrifice of some Brother. We say therefore, let the time for the Convention remain as it is. We can see no good at all likely to result from meeting now in preference to April. In case however, it should be decided by the other chapters best to meet now, the boys have elected a delegate, and if you let me know in time, I shall be on hand to represent, Beta. I hope to see you at the convention whenever it is held and have a gay time. The memory of the last one still clings to me and I have ever since been looking forward to the next as a time when I hope to enjoy myself still better. I wish Tau would let us hear from her. We have not as yet the name of the Corresponding Secretary and are very anxious to learn the "modus operandi" of the Deltas in obtaining the constitution. Had they done as we do, or as the constitution prescribes, no one could have obtained possession of it. We have to pass through three good stout well locked doors to enter our hall, and yet we live up to the full letter of the law,

and compel the Recording Secretary to take the books up in his room and lock them up in a place unknown to everyone but himself.

On one of two occasions when he has neglected to do so, he has been severely censured. By this means we leave nothing in the hall which could hurt us if stolen. Since I have been in college our hall was entered by three enterprising young men but all they could find in the library line were some song books. We found out some one had been in and set to work very quietly to pin them. Said three young men were discovered, and to save themselves from arrest, came forward voluntarily and "forked" over, much to the advantage of the Beta treasury. Of course it became known eventually. Since then, we've not been much troubled by any uninvited visitors. I wish some such thing could be done at Crawfordsville. I'll warrant Beta would furnish her share of the stamps to carry on the prosecution and would be satisfied with nothing less than of seeing a Delta or two "waiting his sentence" inside some latticed room.

MILTON REMLEY, IOWA, TO WILLIAM F. BOYD, OHIO.

IOWA CITY, IOWA, December 16, 1866.

Your favor of November 20th is at hand. I read your communication to Beta Beta chapter at our meeting a few days since. In regard to establishing a chapter at the Chicago University. We voted "Yes" but did not vote in regard to the other one at all. We know nothing about the college whatever and thought best not to take action unless we could do it understandingly. If you can inform us as to the standing of the institution you would confer a favor by so doing.

There are connected with Beta Beta four active members who will be the nucleus around which will cluster our hopes. There are three members of the order in the city who have not met with us yet. Brother Jackson is the one to whom *all honor* of organizing the Chapter is due.

FROST CRAFT, INDIANA ASBURY, TO CRUGER W. SMITH, OHIO.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., Dec. 20, 1866.

Brother Boyd's letter of the 2nd inst., was duly received. We learned from Brother Brouse, the name of Brother Boyd.

He said in his letter that you had written to Delta, several times. We received none of those letters. I do not know why they should miscarry. We acknowledge that our correspondence has been neglected this term, and will try next term to come up to Delta's old standard.

We have heard from very few Chapters thus far, but suppose we are as much to blame as anyone. We received a letter from Alpha a short time since. They have only two members; the letter was from Ed. S. Scott. We have written to Beta several times in regard to the minutes of the Convention, but have received no reply. I suppose we will not get our minutes at all; at least it looks so.

We also heard from Iota, a day or two ago stating that the catalogues were finished, and that we might expect our share in a few days, C. O. D. We ordered one hundred, but it will be pretty hard to get \$40.00 out of us for we are not blest with an overplus of the necessary article. We would have sent you our vote on the organization of those Chapters before, but we wrote to Brother Hamilton in regard to the College at Chicago and did not receive a reply until last night just before leaving Green Castle.

He did not say then what he thought, but merely said that he supposed a vote had been taken and it would be useless to state his opinions. We are in favor of having a Chapter at Wittenberg College, but I cannot say about the other. We depended entirely upon Hamilton's opinion, and if you have heard from him in regard to it, (and I think Brother Boyd, told Brouse you had) you know what our vote would be.

We are not in favor of calling a Convention any earlier than usual on account of that Crawfordsville affair. We have not suffered very much from it after all. We have held our own at Asbury, and have even made it tell in our favor. We tell them that we don't profess to be thieves, and that we are too honorable to publish their Constitution, for we have it, and have showed to them and have made them acknowledge that it was a true copy. We have only the preamble and four Sections; but have the promise of the remainder. Did you ever see a copy? I believe it would require a sharper grammarian than I to parse the preamble. If you write to Luke Wood, at Crawfordsville, I think you will

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I had written to you sometime before, and was awaiting certain further developments before I would send it to you. In the meantime I received your letters. I shall now give you a statement of Beta's prospects in Gamma, together with our opinion concerning a called Convention.

The Trustees of our College have taken it into their heads to put an end to fraternities. They pledge the new students upon entering the College, to neither join, meet, nor countenance any Secret Society. Of course our supplies are cut off. We cannot receive into our Brotherhood, men, for no men of honor will break such a pledge; and you know Beta principles will countenance nothing but what is right. So there is nothing left for Gamma, but to enjoy herself, and grow beautifully less and less as each man leaves, until we only live in the past.

It is rather hard to endure, but after having discussed the matter over and over we see in no way in which we can escape the calamity. We have made up our minds to the decree of fate. Misery loves company. There are seven or eight other fraternities, which go down in the same vortex. We have fifteen Greeks in our Chapter, and we expect to enjoy ourselves for the next year or two. We have but one Senior so we will not suffer much, until the present Junior class leaves.

We are sorry to hear that our Constitution has been stolen, and given to the World. We must make the best of that calamity also. We do not think it advisable to call a Convention. We think it better to await the results, and when the regular Convention comes we will know better what to do. One thing there is nothing in our Constitution that we are ashamed of and nothing that will disgrace us besides the outside world, will never be sure that it is our real Constitution, and those whose opinion is worth having, will think none the less of our order, considering the manner in which our secrets were laid open to the public.

The Phi Gamma Deltas at Crawfordsville, must be a different set of fellows from that we have in our College. The Chapter at Canonsburg is composed of as good and honest a set of fellows as can be found in the College. I would not be much afraid to give them our Constitution to keep over night, if they would promise not to look into it. I think they will reprimand at Crawfordsville, rather than compliment them for

their dastardly deed. We hope our fellow may push the rascals vigorously and put them in the penitentiary if possible.

I came across a student of Delaware College, yesterday, and as soon as he saw my badge he said "Are you a member of that order?" I answered "I am. What do you know about them?" and he said he knew them at Delaware and said that they are all splendid fellows. I am glad to know that the purity of Beta Chapters is preserved and her members are spoken of so flatteringly by outsiders.

CORTLAND L. KENNAN, WESTERN RESERVE, TO CRUGER W. SMITH, OHIO.

HUDSON, OHIO, January 18, 1867.

Your letter was received this morning, and as I am bound you shall have the convention minutes immediately, I thought I might as well answer your letter now. I don't blame you for feeling so about the minutes, and if you knew what pains I have taken to have them sent to all the chapters, you would not find fault with me. After writing to Brother Hanford several times on the subject he finally sent us the enclosed copy and said he had sent one to Brother Iglehart, of Delta, who was to do some of the copying. I am sure Brother Hanford told the truth. He probably sent a copy to Delta, but as she seems as anxious as any now, it may not have reached her. I have written to Brother Hanford again today for another copy and will send that as soon as it comes, and we will make another copy from it. Our recording Secretary has been so busy since we received the enclosed it has not been copied with our book. You may do with this as you wish. If I can possibly get time, I will try to make two or three copies myself.

Our share of the catalogues came last week, and I must say that, glad as we were to receive them, we were considerably disappointed in their appearance. We had hoped they would be gotten up in a much better style. Considering the price, they are well enough, but we might just as well had fewer of them at a dollar each. We are also of the opinion that the style of the old one was too closely followed, and no improvement made. The engraving is certainly inferior. Beta is particularly unfortunate in having no heading to her chapter list, and some of the names

in the index missing. But, we are not disposed to complain about that, nor indeed about anything else. Iota undoubtedly did as well as she could, and when a chapter does that, we shall be the last to find fault. The catalogues may and probably will suit the majority of the chapters, but they don't come up to what we here wanted. Those of our rival society, the Alpha Delta Phi, are really elegant, I understand, and if what I hear is true, we shall not dare to show ours alongside of theirs. Since I wrote you last, Beta has added one more to her number, one every way worthy to be a Beta. He was pledged last Summer, but was not initiated sooner on account of his father's being opposed to all secret societies.

CORTLAND L. KENNAN, WESTERN RESERVE, TO CRUGER W.
SMITH, OHIO.

HUDSON, OHIO, February 9, 1867.

Beta was highly pleased at the news in reference to the birth of our new sisters Beta Beta and Gamma Gamma, and her Corresponding Secretary is much obliged to you for the names of their Corresponding Secretaries. Alpha is now the only one whose Corresponding Secretary is not known. You did not know when you sent me a list of the others and I presume forgot to send it after that. If you will let me know in your next you will place me under obligations.

What are the particular reasons given by Greeks of Chicago, for not establishing a Chapter there immediately. One of our Juniors is from Chicago, and he is decidedly of the opinion that the work should be pushed forward with all possible speed. There are other Fraternities there now and they are getting a stronger hold every year. I was in hopes we should have a delegate from there at our next Convention. I was intending to ask you whether you had made any arrangements for an orator and poet, and was glad to hear you intended to attend to it immediately.

Do you propose getting out any cards or invitations to the Convention to be sent to the different Chapters and old members? We ought to have something of the kind as it will not only look well but will be a better way of informing all of the time, and place of the Convention.

I forgot to have a vote taken at our last meeting' on the founding of a Chapter at Oxford, Miss., but shall see that it is done next week and will let you know immediately. We know nothing at all about the Institution, not as much at any rate as we should to vote on the question, and shall therefore be obliged to rely on what other Chapters tell us.

EDWARD S. SCOTT, MIAMI, TO CRUGER W. SMITH, OHIO.

OXFORD, O., February 18, 1867.

Old mother Alpha has had an increase in her family of two, since I wrote you last, and we now number four; one of whom, Brother Short, is absent at present, but will return in the course of a month or so. It is possible that we may take in one or two more before the end of the session. At any rate we will have a good foundation to build on next year, and I think the prospects for Alpha are brighter than they have been for some time. All advise to let the chapter go down rather than get in any unworthy members, and this is the sentiment of the chapter.

No doubt you have received the long looked for catalogues before this. How do you like them? The printing and press work are much superior to the last; but I think the engraving inferior, and there are several serious blunders, the omission of the heading to Beta chapter for instance.

Our brethren in Indianapolis seem to be determined to do all in their power to give us a grand reception next May. I received a letter from Brother Brouse the other day saying that the resident Greeks had held one meeting in regard to the matter, and would soon hold another to perfect arrangements.

The $\Delta T \Delta$ here are defunct. About a year ago they united with the $\Phi \Delta \Theta$ a society gotten up for political purposes principally, and gave up the ghost. Mr. Holbrook went with them and consequently wears the "Sword and Shield" now. He graduated last year, but lives in the vicinity of this place.

Can you tell us anything in regard to the Minutes of the last Convention. We have not as yet received a copy of them. We were glad to learn of the prosperity of Kappa, and we trust that it may long continue.

JOSEPH B. BATELLE, OHIO WESLEYAN, TO ARCHIBALD M. OSBORNE, OHIO.

DELAWARE, O., February 18, 1867.

Lorenzo D. McCabe, a former member of Kappa Chapter, and a professor in this College, is desirous of having his name transferred to Theta Chapter. Please state if he is now a member of Kappa or not and what relation does he bear to your chapter. He has asked me to write you requesting that his name might be transferred to Theta.

We boys here think it quite a favorable sign for us and our prosperity that he should make such a request voluntarily. A strong effort was made by the Faculty about a year ago to break up all the chapters here, but it failed. The $\Delta T \Delta$ we understand, have brought a chapter here from Athens. As yet, no one has appeared with a badge.

OLIN R. BROUSE, INDIANA ASBURY, TO CRUGER W. SMITH, OHIO.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., March 26, 1867.

The arrangements for the Convention are going on well, we think. The Sessions will probably be held in the Senate Chambers of our State House, while delegates will register their names at the Bates House on arriving. Just whether we will all stay permanently at the Bates has not been determined.

At the last meeting, Saturday night last—I was put at the head of Committee of arrangements, vice-Brother Carnahan. News coming from some ten Chapters warrants me in believing that there will be a pretty good turn out from abroad.

Will you please give one more letter to each Chapter urging them to come in as large numbers as possible and encouraging them by stating the prospects. One more letter written to each by Kappa on this subject will effect much.

We will have a welcome address of say from 5 to 15 minutes length, to which we wish either your delegates or the temporary chairman to make a short pithy reply. This immediately on the organization of Convention. And if the temporary Chairman is to do it, let him know of it in time to prepare something, five minutes long or so. We want to give the whole affair a lift by

giving it a good start. We will rely on your doing this. Either have your delegate answer or inform the temporary Chairman in time to prepare an answer to our welcome speech.

The banquet has been pretty definitely set for Wednesday evening. We want to have our ladies out and eat. No wines.

Let us hear from you soon. The delegates from Kappa, had better come as early on Monday as possible so we can complete little arrangements together. We hope that not less than three will be present from your Chapter and just as many more as can raise the wind.

SAMUEL F. PALMER, MONMOUTH, TO CRUGER W. SMITH, OHIO.

MONMOUTH, ILLS., May 12, 1867.

At the last meeting of our chapter, I was appointed to write to you the rest of this year. Alpha Alpha is prospering and all goes well with us. We took in a new member the other evening, a fine young fellow, whom I will introduce to you as Brother Matthews.

I wish to give Kappa our views of that temple at Oxford, O. We, as a chapter are unanimously opposed to it for two reasons which we consider valid. It localizes B Θ II and causes us to meet in one place all the time and this takes away some of the interest in our conventions. As we meet now it creates somewhat of a sensation in the various large cities, and thus adds to the greatness of our order and to our influence. But considering this as of no importance as an objection, the cost in the second place undoubtedly is, for the sum specified will not build such a temple as we would desire and as we ought to build. If we build a temple it should be something that would last for ages and which it would be an object to see and finally something which no similar western society could possibly eclipse. According to our ideas, \$100,000 is the least that should be expended in such a building. Please consider these things, and if they seem proper to you, assist us in defeating the project. If we are incorrect in our views please inform us.

WILLIAM F. BOYD, OHIO, TO THE OHIO CHAPTER.

ATHENS, OHIO, June 25th, 1868.

Two reasons and a third which I have named to some of you,

convince me of the propriety of resigning my place as Delegate to the Convention.

1st. I am not able to bear my own expenses, having lost that amount since I accepted the place.

2nd. I am not willing to impose on the chapter the burden of those expenses, though I know they would be cheerfully paid. I would not feel right in accepting them.

I do this reluctantly for it was one of the ambitions of my boyhood to go to a Beta Convention—ambitions that are dropping one by one into the silence of entombed repose.

I suggest Cranston if none of the boys can go.

With best wishes for the prosperity of the chapter, I remain.

K. G. PHELPS, MONMOUTH, TO HENRY C. WILL, OHIO.

MONMOUTH, ILLS., August 10, 1868.

I am very sorry that I have not a Catalogue of the College for you. When I get to town I will try and get one. I think you and your chapters are sound on the question of admitting *Scientifics*. That is our rule invariably. It seems to me absurd that a person should belong to a Greek letter society who is not able to read the letters on his own pin. You will see by the programme that our ladies are enterprising enough to have secret societies though one of them (the A) has but two or three members in college. The first honors were taken by a "choctaw" but only through the death of Brother Palmer who had them up to the time he was taken sick. We have never failed in taking them since AA has been established.

EDMUND BERKELEY, WASHINGTON & LEE, TO HENRY C. WILL,
OHIO.

LEXINGTON, VA., October 11, 1868.

Having been a cadet of the V. M. I., and being a warm supporter of the establishment of a chapter at that institution, I take it upon myself to answer your letter to Brother Robinson requesting a Catalogue. I cannot secure one for you at present, but will give you all the information I can upon the Institution. It is a Military school and of course the discipline effectually

prevents the cadets coming out at night, which is unfavorable to nightly meetings and any secrecy about the time of meeting. Another objection which some have raised is that Beta officers would be partial to their brothers and that this would tend to make the Fraternity unpopular.

But so far as I can judge from letters on the subject the chief objection of most of our Northern brethren is that we will not get the right kind of men and the chapter would fall below the grade of Betaism. Sir, I can assure you that we have a start there, which if properly taken advantage of will give us the first chapter in the Fraternity. We have a nucleus which cannot but draw around it an element of honor, nobility and talent. There is no need of so much secrecy about the time and place of meeting so long as everything of importance which may be transacted during these meetings is kept a profound secret. The other objection is absurd; for a Beta who would not help another is no *Beta*. But even should the Chapter there labour under every disadvantage, are we for a trifle, to give up the chance of getting of the noble and talented young men so many of whom are turned out every year by the V. M. I? I hope the flame of Betaism goes not out, in the breast of *any* Beta when his college career is finished and he starts out into the world. I feel that our infant sister at the V. M. I., will turn out some of the brightest ornaments of our Fraternity. Our brothers at the Institution cannot possibly attend our meetings without the risk of being dismissed and without the establishment of a chapter there Betaism must go out and we lose forever the brightest opportunity we have ever had, or may ever have, for disseminating the seeds of Betaism. The Institution is one of the most flourishing schools in the South. It numbers at present three hundred—many of whom are the flower of our Southern land—please let us have your vote as soon as possible.

JAMES E. MOFFATT, INDIANA, TO WM. F. BOYD, OHIO.

MONMOUTH, ILLS., Oct. 23rd, 1868.

A few days ago, I received a letter from the presiding chapter making inquiries as to the propriety of founding a chapter at this place. I answered giving all the information I could, I presume that she has presented the matter to you.

In my humble opinion there is as fair a prospect for a chapter here as could be desired. I have some acquaintance with several of our Western Colleges and I think Monmouth will compare favorably with any of them both as regards her standard and students.

Much as I honor my old chapter Pi, yet I think if a chapter was established here that it would soon acquire more talent than Pi has done any time since I have known her.

WILL S. BROWN, INDIANA, TO HENRY C. WILL, OHIO.

BLOOMINGTON, IND., Oct. 26th, 1868.

We have shared a portion of the honors in the literary societies, one of our members having been elected as anniversarie from the societies and also we have two Spring Speakers, Brother Wickersham a newly initiated member and myself. In one of our societies our fraternity have the sway but in the others we are in the minority, nevertheless by uniting with some others we can get our man occasionally. We now number ten sons of the unalloyed Grecian spirit who will vindicate her through thick and thin. We will have our number increased two or three more in a short time as soon as the Law Department opens. There are three other organizations here ΣX , $\Delta \Psi \Theta$, $\Phi \Delta \Theta$ and one member of another organization by the name of Bundy. I think he is a $\Phi \Delta E$. He was in the Freshman class last year at Oxford I don't know whether he will attempt to found a chapter here or not.

JUSTIN E. COOK, IOWA, TO HENRY C. WILL, OHIO.

IOWA CITY, IOWA, October 26, 1868.

I think, with you, that we should all be prompt in attending to our correspondence. B B sympathizes with you in your affliction and trusts that what has been your loss has been Brother Reed's gain. It is sorrowful indeed to have a friend taken from us, who is striving to fit himself for usefulness but such is life. Our chapter is not in as flourishing a condition as it was last year, several of our members have left school to engage in business. We have but four members in attendance at the University. One Law student, one Senior, and two juniors. In addition to this number of students we have two professors, two

young lawyers who are practising in town, the superintendent of the public schools in this place, the principal of a commercial college likewise in this place so that in reality we are not very weak. We are on the lookout for anyone whom we think would make a good Greek. The Φ Κ Ψ here have about twenty members but in the whole number there are only three or four men whom we would think of having. We have had several pretty good jokes on them. The last is one played by E E Chapter located at Mt. Pleasant. Their Corresponding Secretary wrote to a member of E E asking for his opinion of secret societies, at the same time informing him that he was positive that there was no secret society at his college. Brother Kelly states that he intends to draw them out a little more fully. As it is, it is a good joke. Our institution is known as the "Iota State University." A law department is already attached to the college and next year a medical department will be in operation. We expect soon to have an institution of no ordinary merit. Already it surpasses every other institution in the State. You made your complaint to the right one, concerning the minutes of the last convention and it is all right you did so. They have been delayed longer than they should have been. But our delegate is not in attendance the present term so that it took some little time to get them and prepare them for the press. But they are all ready now and are now delayed by the printer who cannot attend to them until after election. Inside of three weeks you shall have them.

SHEPARD BARCLAY, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, TO HENRY C. WILL,
OHIO.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, November 9, 1868.

I am glad to hear that Kappa promises so well this year, and am happy to be able to say that our prospects for literary and scholastic distinctions are as bright as ever. Last year the Betas secured no less than eight honors in the two literary societies, the Washington and Jefferson, and this year we will—but never mind what we will do—when our victories of this term are achieved, we will then tell you of them.

We are seven this term. Two from Virginia, two from Alabama, two from Missouri and one from Georgia. We have taken

in but one new man this year, and he left us the next day on a voyage to China. We call him our Hong Kong Brother.

We are always exceedingly careful in taking in men here, and consequently the chapter is never very large. Even in the best sessions of the past, when the great mass of students here has been of a very high grade, we have never had a very large chapter, and this year, we think it very likely that we will not admit a single man.

We have a very heavy opposition in the way of eleven other fraternities, but as to some of them the opposition is only in name, as they support us whenever support is needed. The other societies here are the following: $\Delta K E$, $\Phi K \Psi$, $\Sigma A E$, $\Delta \Psi$, ΦX , $Z \Psi$, $\Pi K A$, $K \Phi A$, ΣX , $\Phi \Gamma \Delta$, and "Mystic Seven." The four first named together with our chapter are of long standing here, but the others are of mushroom growth, having all been established since the war, I believe. I may safely say that the $\Phi K \Psi$, $\Delta \Psi$, ΣX and $\Sigma A E$, are our firm friends. Some of the others, generally oppose us, and others still are indifferent. Besides this great number of opposing fraternities there is also here a great host of barbarians.

As to establishing a chapter at the Virginia Military Institute, I would say that it is one of the best institutions in the state. It has retained very little of its military character as they cannot bear arms now, and has become more of a literary institution. In times past, it has turned out some of the best men of this great old commonwealth, and I do not see why she cannot now send out men as good, and send them out too with the Beta Badge on their breasts, and the Beta love and ambition in their hearts. I am confident that I speak the sentiment of every Beta in Virginia when I say, that we sincerely believe that the placing of a chapter there would advance very materially the cause of our great brotherhood. In my last letter to the presiding chapter, I said about the same thing as I have said to you and I hope that all our exertions are not to be without fruit. Will you not vote in the affirmative?

I have thus far received letters from Xi, Mu, Iota, Delta, Beta and Epsilon Epsilon, besides yourself, and all speak in glowing terms of their prospects for this year. May their expectations be realized.

JAMES P. NELSON, WASHINGTON, VA., TO HENRY C. WILL, OHIO.

LEXINGTON, VA., November 25, 1868.

I shall write you a letter. It has taken me some time to come to this determination. The person called "Morpheus" is wooing me to fall into his arms and take a snooze but I shall sternly bid him to let me alone till I have written to you. Most of the chapters have voted for our Institute chapter thus far, and we hope to have it in operation by "New Year." The boys are very impatient and are the most enthusiastic men I ever saw over Betaism. Who would not be, if he was a Beta?

So we have got a Beta for Vice-president. Well! I will make no comments. We might not understand each other. Tomorrow is Thanksgiving day appointed by our President and we are in hope that old "Marse Bob" will open his heart and give us suspension.

Since you heard from us Brother Allison has been elected one of the "Washington Literary Society." Betas will come on the "top round of the ladder" no matter how you twist and turn it, I think that we are the most conceited men I ever saw. We talk as if Beta were everything. I wrote to one of the corresponding secretaries—to strain every nerve to make our order the first in every College and he wrote back and said "why strain every nerve when it is the first. It is acknowledged so by everyone who gives an impartial judgment. We will vote in the affirmative on the Granville Chapter, I think, and also on the one at St. Louis.

You speak of Omicron being opposed by eleven fraternities. We have against us the $\Phi K \Psi$; $\Delta K E$; $A T \Omega$; ΣX ; $\Sigma A E$; and some new ones which are not very much. Of the above mentioned the $\Phi K \Psi$ is the only one from whom we receive any "hurtful resistance"; although the Betas and Phi Kaps were always splendid friends. We have never had any fuss with any of them, and always avoid all collisions, since we think them of no use, and have seen their bad effects on other fraternities. Have you received a copy of the "Olla Podrida"? If so what do you think of it? We think of getting one up here. We have just started a College paper and expect to meet with very great success. I wish you would send me a catalogue of your College, with all the "Betas" marked in it. I will return the compliment.

Please send me a list of your corresponding secretaries as mine is very incomplete, and I wish to have a large correspondence.

CHARLES DARLINGTON, WITTENBERG, TO HENRY C. WILL, OHIO.

November 29, 1868.

Your letter of the 14th duly at hand. Our chapter was thrown into consternation last night by the reception of a letter from Brother Campbell of our chapter now attending Williams College, Mass. There is one other Beta there from Hudson. A serious misfortune has certainly befallen our Order and that you may fully understand the difficulty, I now quote from Campbell's letter.

"Now as to Secret Societies—but before I proceed let me say that the other Beta here is in the class of '70 and has joined the A Δ Φ. Also that he read me a letter from Hudson last week saying that the chapter there had gone Δ K E but that they wanted to keep the B Θ II in ignorance as long as they could. This is true for they had a delegate at the Δ K E convention at Amherst last month."

In addition to this startling piece of news, we received a letter not long ago from Ellwood Williams of Beta desiring to sell us some Beta Catalogues at 25 cents a piece, they having paid some sixty cents a piece for them. The letter was simply a business one. Why should they desire to sell them at such a loss, when new chapters are continually springing up that would be glad to get them at what they cost unless they had no further use for them? The latter seems to me the most plausible and confirms to my mind the fact that they have proved recreant to their trust and have brought upon their own heads the honest indignation of every true Beta. Under this impression or rather knowing such to be the case, I believe the other Secretary of our Chapter wrote Williams politely informing him that he, his chapter and his catalogues, could go to h——. What think you of the state of affairs?

We have voted in favor of the Granville project. The presiding chapter as yet has sent us no information concerning the Washington University project at St. Louis. From what I can hear, I think the movement a good one and heartily endorse it.

Our chapter is in rather an excited state. I believe if a member of Beta Chapter was to show himself here that our boys would give him little quarter. And mark my words, if money and labor will accomplish anything in one year from now the $\Delta K E$ fraternity will swallow a bitter pill, and will gladly exchange Beta Chapters for the damage done herself. I do not care so much for the chapter as I regret the loss of our foothold in one of the best institutions in the state.

J. E. COOK, IOWA, TO H. C. WILL, OHIO.

IOWA CITY, IOWA, December 8, 1868.

I suppose you have heard the latest news, which is anything but pleasant. I refer to Beta's desertion. If I mistake not, it is something which has not occurred before in the fraternity. Do you concur with the action of the presiding chapter? I do not know how our chapter will act in the matter, but it seems to me to have been a rash act. It is true they have acted the part of traitors, deserting their fraternity and impairing their manhood. Whatever action we take in the matter, let it be manly.

Have you received the minutes of the last Convention? Since I last wrote you Beta Beta has been favored with two additions from the Senior class, fine fellows. The chapter is quite prolific and we may soon expect another bright-eyed fellow in our midst.

We voted in favor of establishing a chapter at Washington University, St. Louis, Mo. The institution is largely endowed and has for its president one of the finest mathematicians in the U. S. We regard it as a fine point.

O. B. SCOBEE OF DENISON, TO H. C. WILL OF OHIO.

GRANVILLE, Jan. 22, 1869.

Stanley of Theta informs me that the first greetings of Eta Eta to Kappa are to be sent through you. All hail, we say then brothers of Kappa.

Eta Eta though young is not like most offsprings, *i. e.*, in not being able to speak for himself.

You doubtless have already formed a favorable opinion of

our college and community standing or we never could have convinced any chapter of Betas so much of our worth as to endeavor to have an organization given to us.

We are seven in number H. A. Delano, senior; H. A. Wise, J. J. Powell, C. M. Rupe, O. B. Scobey, Juniors; W. T. Burns, C. J. Seaman, Sophomores.

Our only rivals here are a few members of the Sigma Chi, a poor organization and a poorer branch is located here. We have not swung as yet for the reasons that our pins have not arrived. We have however one or two in our possession. We sent for them over a month ago and have become somewhat out of patience at the delay.

JOHN REILY KNOX, MIAMI, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI

GREENVILLE, O., January 17, 1869.

Your catalogue should simply show me to be a lawyer resident here. The last catalogue of the Brotherhood that I have seen was issued probably in 1854 or 5—so that I can't give you any items as I have no base to state changes from, I shall endeavor to be at Columbus on the 7th prox. As I expect to be at Oxford next week I hope to meet you and others of the Betas there.

The Original Constitution of the Order was written by me alone. Brother S. Taylor Marshall was in consultation with me throughout in drawing it, and he alone. The original suggestion of the organization was from M.

JUSTIN E. COOK, IOWA, TO HENRY C. WILL, OHIO.

IOWA CITY, IOWA, February 19, 1869.

I received your kind letter in due time and should have answered earlier, but my time has been well employed with studies, and other duties. I hope you will pardon me and return good for evil. Our chapter never has been in a more prosperous condition. Since I wrote you we have taken in three members and our prospects are good. We now have thirteen active members, and the talent of the University will warrant a larger membership. Four of our members graduate the present year. Glorious news comes in from all quarters of the Beta

world, corrupt chapters being plucked out of existence, good ones strengthened by the acquisition of good talent, and the organization of other good ones proposed. I presume you have voted for the establishment of a new chapter at Chicago. It is truly a good point. It would give prominence, in the West to our fraternity if the next convention could be held there. The second anniversary of the founding of our chapter was duly celebrated in January. It was a joyous time, a feast of reason and flow of soul and various other good things. One of our literary societies gave an entertainment on the 12th instant, which is ranked among the best ever given at this institution. Beta boys took no small part and ranked high (with one exception of course). We talk of giving a literary entertainment ourselves. If we do, it will be our endeavor to make it eclipse anything ever given here. What do you think of the propriety of a Greek Chapter giving a literary entertainment?

PHIL N. MOORE, MIAMI, TO HENRY C. WILL, OHIO.

OXFORD, O., May 1, 1869.

Brother Short informed me that you desire the names of the Corresponding Secretaries of our new Chapters. I have only the names of those of Eta Eta and Theta Theta. The names are: O. B. Scobey, Granville, O., and Thomas Fairfax, V. M. I., Lexington, Va.

I wish you Brothers of Kappa would vote "Chicago" on the Convention question. I believe we would have a much more successful Convention at Chicago, than at Columbus.

THEOPHILUS W. HILL, WABASH, TO HENRY C. WILL, OHIO.

CRAWFORDSVILLE, IND., June 4, 1869.

We were glad to hear of your prosperous condition and hope that you may always remain so. Old Tau was never in a better condition. We number eleven active members besides several resident Greeks who are pretty active. We took in a new man at our last meeting, but one. His name is Will Dickey and he is one of the best men in his class. There are two other Greek societies here the $\Phi \Delta \Theta$ and $\Phi \Gamma \Delta$. Our chapter had an invitation a few days ago from Pi chapter to attend their reunion which

takes place on Monday Eve, June 28th. They have gotten up a very handsome card of invitation. We had a rousing meeting last Wednesday night. Two of our last year's graduates were with us, Brothers Kent and Wood. They are two as whole souled Betas as I ever saw. Brother Haines is one delegate to the convention this year. Several of our boys are talking of attending the convention, but I guess it will end in talk. Such things take money. You wish to know the names of some of the Corresponding Secretaries of the new Chapters. I have before me some names which I will give you. The Corresponding Secretary of Iota Iota is V. Knapp, 818 Gratiot Street, St. Louis, Mo., J. E. Cook is Corresponding Secretary of Beta Beta, Iowa City, Iowa. My roommate received a letter from Roger Williams of Alpha a few days ago, and he says that their chapter intends to attend the convention "en masse." That would be splendid I think.

FRANK W. MORRISON, WABASH, TO PHILIP N. MOORE, MIAMI.

CRAWFORDSVILLE, IND., December 9, 1869.

Your letter was received some time ago and as we have two Corresponding Secretaries, we each overlooked it, supposing that the other had answered it. Although Alpha has a great deal of competition, perhaps more than any other chapter, yet I do not feel at all alarmed, for although she is small, yet her reputation is such that will stand forever. The boys here seem to love Miami. I, for one do, because my father graduated there, and because I have a good many friends there. I have just received a letter from T. W. Shaw of Delta Delta chapter. He reports that they have no competition, and therefore can do as they please. Here we have the Phi Gamma Delta and the Phi Delta Theta. The former have about twenty members—some of the worst old sticks in the business. They actually have members who they are ashamed to pin. They have recently *sunk*, both in number and quality, until they were compelled, this term to take in any one that they could get. Scientifics, irregulars, &c. We have taken in two of the best men who came the first of last term and both were spiked by the other societies. We do not want a large number, and on this account have let some men slip, whom the others afterwards got, but we have never repented it. I do not mean by

this that we let any good men slip, for we do not work upon that basis. *We want good men or none.*

HERMAN CRONKLETON, OHIO WESLEYAN, TO ROGER WILLIAMS,
MIAMI.

DELAWARE, O., December 14, 1869.

I have received your letter, Roger Williams, and find it heavy with good cheer and brotherly love. Although I don't meet the boys very often, still, my heart is in the cause. Our corresponding Secretary is Frank Dougherty. He's teaching this term and I don't know who attends to it in his absence. I regret to say it, but the truth is, Theta is having a hard time of it this term. I tremble for her safety. Tomorrow one of our brighter stars will leave us. He is the sharpest and bravest man in all the college but he's got to go tomorrow. The faculty don't want him any longer. He will go out with the mark "Expelled" written above his record. I have just returned from his room, I found him cheerful and full of hope. The Sigmas and Phi Kappas will also lose a man each at the present time, so, we are not alone in our sorrow. Friday evening we met with another mortification, Brother Nave, a good man and Editor-in-Chief of the *Collegian* made an ass of himself at the contest between the Athenias and Zetagathen literary societies. He insulted the president and would not sit down when through speaking and even when his allotted time was up. He was hissed and stamped down. He did very wrong yet the boys stick by him as close as they can under the circumstances. So you see we are not in luck just now. I never have had occasion to make such a report as this before. I have sometimes talked cheerfully when things were not as lovely as they might have been. I now tell the naked truth. I have now stripped the fair beauty Truth of every rag of clothing and she now stands before you naked. Examine, ponder and inwardly digest. Enclosed please find a programme. You will notice that we have six men out of the fourteen on the programme. Our men always come to time in the literary line. Theta is a little unfortunate just now but she will recover. She has got the men and the prestige. Remember her to Alpha and in conclusion, Roger, accept my warmest regards.

HARRY B. YOUNG, MONMOUTH, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI.

MONMOUTH, ILLS., Dec. 25, 1869.

I am happy to learn that the "minutes" were so well received for they were no little trouble I assure you; the trouble and work however are nothing if the chapters are pleased. The chapter in Chicago assisted me and to them is due the thanks of the order; their work of publication was not inconsiderable.

It is probable that Gamma is extinct as I learn that the Faculty and Trustees have come down on "secret societies" and "shovelled 'em out" wholesalely. We have been addressed once by Omicron and have returned the compliment together with our vote on Cornell College, Iowa, which was affirmative. We are not personally acquainted with the state of affairs at Cornell but have taken Omicron and Epsilon Epsilon as authority and they give very flattering reports.

In regard to the Grand Seal we have done nothing and the reason for this is that until you wrote about it we had never a word from anybody. I will however send it to Omicron as it properly belongs there. The way in which I came to get it was this. On the evening we adjourned the Convention I gathered all the minutes and reports together without paying particular attention (for I was quite unwell) and as the design was with the report of course it went into my satchel. After I found it there I remembered that no provision had been made for it and was consequently in a fix similar to the boy who went to a lottery and drew the Elephant.

J. SIMPSON WALKER, VIRGINIA, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, Jan'y 26th, 1870.

Your letter of December 9th has been on hand some time. I have been waiting to get some action taken on the preparation of our list for the Catalogue before writing but as our recorder is away we have not had a meeting for some time and consequently have not acted on it. We will have the list corrected and sent to you at an early date. Your vote on the Cornell proposal is recorded and we desire the vote of Alpha on the proposal for establishing a chapter of our order at the University of the Pa-

cific, Santa Clara, Cal. The proposal came from Delta. This Institution (the University of the Pacific) is said to be the largest and most prosperous college on the Pacific Coast. There is no secret society there and consequently the very best men are promised as charter members. Besides the Rev. T. H. Sinex an alumnus of Delta is a professor there and is quite anxious to establish a chapter, he is said to be a whole souled Greek. We wish the vote of Alpha in this matter.

I heard recently from Gamma. She numbers one only. Not dead yet but in the last agonies. His address is Isaac S. Van Voorhies, Box 368, Washington, Pa.

We are glad to hear that there is not much danger of the decease of Alpha. I had rather see any other chapter perish than our mother chapter. You should remember this and keep the spirit up.

Omicron sends warmest Greek love to Alpha. Is there any chance or hope of a chance for the reestablishment of Beta Chapter?

A. GRAHAM ROBINSON, WASHINGTON, (VA)., TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI.

LEXINGTON, VA., Feb. 6th, 1870.

We have heard as yet from very few of the Chapters and we should be greatly cheered to hear of the prosperity of any of them especially our newly established ones. We hear often from Omicron, and it is a great comfort to us. I had a letter from Brother Walker there not long since, he writes encouragingly of our prospects. I hope you may be successful in getting the various revised catalogues soon, and that the coming catalogue may be as acceptable in every respect as the last one issued. I cannot understand why all the chapters have not responded promptly to your call; surely the publication of the catalogue is a matter of interest to us all.

We have not as yet voted on the proposal to establish a chapter at the University of the Pacific, but the subject will be discussed at our next meeting. We are strongly in favor of the establishment of good chapters in good institutions, but in these times of worthless colleges, (though they have loud sounding

names), we should be on our guard. The proposal for the California chapter seems to come from a good source and the means by which it is to be established seem to be good. I think it probable therefore that our vote will be in the affirmative.

I hear from the presiding chapter that the proposed Chapter at Cornell College, Iowa, will probably not get a sufficient number of votes, owing to the opposition made to it by some of our best Western Chapters. You all, of course, who know anything at the institution should be the best judges, of the wisdom of locating our order there—we in the East know nothing of the institution and hence I think one should be governed in a great measure by your opinion. Our rivals here are too numerous to mention, prominent among them however are the $\Delta K E$. We know nothing of the order except that we have heard they were strong in the East, and have a first rate set of men at the University. Do you know anything of the $\Delta \Psi$? They have lately, within the last few months, put out their colors here, but their men as a general rule are a poor set.

A. GARY SMITH, IOWA WESLEYAN, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI.

MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA, February 23, 1870.

Yours of December 11th, 1869 was duly received by Brother Kelly and handed to me as your chapter is on my list of correspondents. I did not answer it then as I was somewhat surprised at it, as I had written and received two or three letters before from your chapter this college year, and also had just written one in answer to one of Brother Moore's a few days previous. The fraternity seems to be careless about correspondence, as the reception of a Greek letter is becoming quite a rare occurrence. We have written to all the chapters, excepting two or three, of whom we do not know the corresponding secretaries, but have not heard from nearly all.

Our chapter is keeping the even tenor of its way with little change. One of our members and a senior in college is a member of the State Legislature this winter, six of us go out in June with our farewell to E. E. The chapter will be rather small at the beginnnig of next year, but still in good hands. We have no more men in prospect at present.

We have not heard from the presiding chapter for a long time and I don't know what is to be done about the proposed chapter at Cornell College, Iowa. Think it is time things were concluded on. We have received two or three letters from one of the men there, and they are anxious to have a chapter established and they seem to have a good foundation to commence on. It seems to me the presiding chapter is somewhat negligent in not pushing such things through. Those men will get completely tired out waiting before long.

I should judge from your letter that you intend to publish the catalogue before the next convention. I will send you our chapter list before long. Do the chapters correspond with you well?

Brother Kelly has just received a letter from the presiding chapter announcing the defeat of the establishment of a chapter at Cornell College. I think the fraternity has done it now. They have lost one of the best chapters that might have been. The college is just as good as lots we have chapters in now.

SAMUEL L. WARD, WABASH, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI.

CRAWFORDSVILLE, IND., February 25, 1870.

In looking over some of the letters I received last term, I found yours and was reminded that I had not answered it. To-night our "Contest Debate" comes off. The speakers are Betas, Deltas or barbarians. The poor Phis have not got a smell. Their best men now are your old classmates Post, Buther and Whitehead. They have about seventeen men in their chapter, but they are all so thin that they are fitly represented by their leaders.

All three of the "Greek Fraternities" had a "big bum" two weeks ago Tuesday evening. There were about forty present. We had a string band from our own number and also plenty of vocal music. The supper was the biggest that Wabash boys ever saw or the town afforded and I think it has made a better state of feeling between the societies.

I am reminded in looking over your letter that we have not fixed up our catalogue yet. I had forgotten it and I guess that the rest of the boys had too. I will remind them tomorrow and see that the thing is fixed up soon *if not sooner*. We have still

eleven members but are working around the roots of another to see if we want him and if we can get him. We expect to lose four men next commencement, one by graduation and two by going east to college. The other Wm. Smith is to stop then and come no more. That takes three Betas out of my own class but I have my eye on one more who I think will make a good man.

Do you think that you will go to the convention this year? I think that several of our boys will go. Lucius Smith intends to go home with me and spend a couple of weeks with me and then go over to the convention together.

SAMUEL L. WARD, WABASH, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI.

CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA, March 12th, 1870.

We took in a new man Saturday night. A Freshman and a good fellow. We are to have Dan Vorhees in town next week and we will drag him up to a chapter meeting. We have a member of Delta meeting with us now. He is studying law in town.

Wabash is thriving. We are going to have a gymnasium now, expect to have it up for the last of this term. You must have lots of work to do in fixing up the catalogue. I have about made up my mind that Alpha's six are worth about fifteen common men for work.

By rights we ought to have a proof of the catalogue to correct. I don't know how you are going to manage it but if we could have the proof ready at the time of the convention it would be a good idea.

So Price thinks that the Betas at Wabash don't amount to much? The Phi Gamma Delta dare not compete with us for good social fellows, and I wonder how he gets around our having two class historians while she has one, and our having the best speaker, scholar and all around good fellow. I mean Matt Haines. On Contest Debate, Little and Haines were generally acknowledged to be the two best men and to have the best speeches. We have also got the best man of the Prep. Class (Jno. McLain) unless we except Bill, who is a man about twenty-three or four and who left the Phi Delta Theta in disgust.

A. GARY SMITH, IOWA WESLEYAN, TO ED. S. SCOTT, MIAMI.

MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA, May 2nd, 1870.

Our chapter is flourishing. We took another man from the

ranks of Barbarian darkness two weeks ago, and he is rejoicing in the light of the Greeks.

Inclosed I send you our roll complete for publication in the catalogue. I received a letter from the presiding chapter announcing the affirmative vote for the establishment of a chapter at the University of the Pacific.

Delta promises to have the new song book ready for the next Convention.

What think you of the idea of building a Beta temple somewhere? It seems to me we are strong enough now and I think it would be a pretty fine thing.

I anticipate a grand time at Chicago next summer. I think the majority of our chapter will go. We have six seniors who are all going, and several of the others also propose to go. We have quite a good sized chapter, twelve regular members besides a couple of resident Greeks that attend.

EDWARD J. GAY, WASHINGTON, MO., TO ROGER WILLIAMS,
MIAMI.

ST. LOUIS, MO., May 14, 1870.

Iota Iota has adopted a new plan lately in regard to her correspondence that is, assigning a certain number of chapters to each member and as I am so fortunate as to have your chapter on my list I indite to you my first Beta letter. We number at present six active members, David R. Francis—Senior Class collegiate department. Edward B. Jones, senior scientific; Joel W. Shackelford, partial student; Elliott H. Wilson, middle Scientific; Thomas Allen, Jr., freshman scientific; Edward J. Gay, Jr., Soph. collegiate department and our alumnus Charles M. Litton.

Tonight we initiate a new member a very promising Freshman, L. Chauvenet, who will make a true Greek. We meet every two weeks, on Saturday night. We have a very nice hall fitted with every accommodation.

Besides the regular order of business and before sociability we have adopted the plan of having at alternate meetings, at the first an original essay and select reading, at the next a subject is proposed for discussion and debated by whole house. Under the head of Sociability comes an account of all the pleasant Experi-

ences of the brothers and if any, their misfortunes, for sympathy.

I assure you we love each other dearly and a feeling of warm affection goes out from my breast (and I know it does from the others) for every true Beta and we love our order for having given us this perfect confidence and fraternal affection and pleasant intercourse with each other which we never would have obtained in any other way, and we all feel that our association as Betas has fitted us more for society and contact with the Barbarian world and has been of the greatest benefit to us socially and has improved us mentally. We are now just about a year old, having been organized April 1st, 1869, by Brothers Shepard Barclay and James B. Gantt and Thomas J. Scott all of Omicron, and our members Vernon W. Knapp '69 carried on the chapter for a short time then Brother Francis was taken in, afterwards Brother Jones and myself and still later others.

At first we met with no opposition as there were no secret societies at our college, but our pins first attracted attention, then our somewhat exclusive association with each other at school and other circumstances brought us distinctly before the school, and probably our support of each other in all our societies and in misunderstandings. Whether from jealousy or what I know not but a feeling of opposition has sprung up not open and positive but plain enough to us among part of the students and we suspect that, other societies are either forming or already in existence but we feel fully able to oppose all and to combat with any. Iota Iota sends true Beta love to Alpha and hopes soon to hear from her.

C. P. NOLAND, VIRGINIA, TO PHILIP N. MOORE, MIAMI.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, May 19, 1870.

At our meeting last night a communication was submitted to us from *Beta Beta* chapter relative to the establishment of a chapter at *Simpson Centenary College*, Indianola, Iowa. The proposition meeting with *Beta Beta*'s unanimous approval is from Brother Baker one of Delta's alumni well known as one of the oldest and best chapters in the order. We enter heartily into the project giving below an abstract of *Beta Beta*'s communication

favorable in the highest degree and calling for the immediate consideration of the order. *Simpson Centenary College* has now been established on its present basis about three years. The first graduating class of six leaves there in June. No primary department is connected with the school which at present numbers ninety. It is the conference college of the Des Moines Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. It has a productive endowment of \$30,000 and more in prospect. The two buildings connected with the college are worth \$30,000. Brother Baker who urges the establishment is represented as a man of fine judgment and discrimination and one who would do nothing rashly or indiscreetly. He says Simpson Centenary College bids fair to become in time one of the first colleges of the west. He urges that in attending to this at once we can establish a chapter. We will have the pick of the college and at once be placed above all competition.

We have also received a communication relative to the establishment of an Alumni Chapter at Louisville, Ky., where there are some twenty alumni and at the head of them Overton Harris, formerly a member of Omicron, a young lawyer and a very energetic man. We think that this is the finest opening in the country for a chapter and are therefore very much in favor of its establishment. After the high stand that Alpha Alumni has taken in our order, I think that we should endeavor to establish Alumni Chapters. We received a letter from Overton Harris in regard to the establishment of this Chapter at Louisville, Ky. He says they have twenty Alumni, all energetic and hardworking young men, three of them from Omicron and two from Rho. He assures us that he will ensure the success and prosperity of this chapter if it is established. So please vote on each of these separately and at your earliest convenience as we wish to establish them at once.

CHARLES R. HENDERSON, CHICAGO, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI.

CHICAGO, ILLS., May 21, 1870.

We want to put in our "College Times," the University publication, along with the other societies a notice of the Beta Theta Pi, with names of resident members, etc. Brother Bruce Chand-

ler of Lambda, told me yesterday evening that you had a cut, stamp or something in the shape of a "sun-burst" with the badge or something like it in the center for such purpose. If you have, can you please send it next week or answer immediately by return mail, in order that we may have one made if that is not in existence.

I don't know who will be the orator at the Convention; there is some talk of a postponement of the Convention to August on account of Congress not having adjourned till the last of July; but I believe Omicron the Presiding Chapter has not been heard from.

We put on badges last week and are meeting with terrible opposition from Psi Upsilon. Can you tell me the standing of that society compared with Alpha Delta Phi and Delta Kappa Epsilon? How do you manage to keep men from those Eastern fraternities?

ALBERT G. SMITH, IOWA WESLEYAN, TO ED. S. SCOTT, MIAMI.

MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA, May 26, 1870.

Yours of no date was duly received. Epsilon Epsilon is rejoicing in a new acquisition. Last night we initiated our Vice-President James H. Hopkins. We had a grand time "Old Wooglin" was well pleased with the sacrifice. We now have the President, Vice-President and Professor of mathematics as true and noble Greeks. Please add to our roll the names which I have enclosed herein.

We voted no on the proposition to establish a chapter at "Simpson Centenary College" in this state because we think we know as much about the institution as anyone and do not consider it at present worthy of a chapter. The representations that are being sent from Beta Beta to different chapters about it are incorrect. Its prospects and condition are over stated. We have men who live near there, and some who have been there within a short time; the president was a former professor here, and probably some time the institution will be a good place. But we do not want any more doubtful chapters started. Personally many of our men are interested in the college, and we all desire to see it prosper; and have no prejudice against it, and it is only for the best interests of the fraternity that we vote against it.

I forwarded our roll to you some time ago. There was a proposition sent us for establishing an alumni chapter at Louisville, Ky. We did not take action on it, until we should learn more about it; because we are opposed to having such alumni chapters as the one at Nashville, Tenn.

J. CAL. KAUFFMAN, WITTENBERG, TO PHILIP N. MOORE, MIAMI.

SPRINGFIELD, O., May 26, 1870.

About a month ago brother Sprecher handed me a letter from brother Scott of your chapter. I would have answered it sooner but was waiting for some information respecting brother Wright's address. I finished the preparation of the list of our members as well as I knew how and will send it enclosed. Brother Campbell is an editor and not knowing how to designate it I left it vacant, and you will please fill the blank.

Correspondence has been unusually slow during the year but it is improving. Since my election to the position of Corresponding Secretary I have had plenty to do. I have written to all the chapters and have received replies from several.

The Presiding Chapter informs us that the Convention has been postponed until August 1st.

We have been instructed to vote upon the question of the establishment of a chapter at Simpson Centenary College, Indianola, Iowa, and also an alumni chapter at *Louisville, Ky.* We voted in favor of the latter proposition but wish to consider the other before voting upon it. Beta Beta chapter seems to be very enthusiastic in regard to the Indianola chapter; so does Delta. Very likely we will vote in favor of it too. Omicron says *she* has done so. Have you heard whether the Chapter at the University of the Pacific has been established?

Gamma Gamma has been getting along very well all year. We have sixteen in all. Our brethren of the Senior Class have gone home, where they will remain until the week of Commencement. Bros. Cochel, Hershiser, Smith, Sprecher and Stewart graduate this year. Bro. Hershiser is valedictorian of his class which numbers eleven. The second and third honors go to the Phi Kappa Psi. We have four Juniors; Miller, Ruthrauff, Shanibarger and Stough; six Sophomores, Folckemmer, Funk,

Grosscup, Kaley, Kauffman and McCreary; and one solitary Freshman, Brother Boerstler. Bro. Miller is President, Bro. Kaley, Recording Secretary and Brother Grosscup and myself are Corresponding Secretaries of the Chapter.

I am sorry that Alpha has such hard work but I have no doubt that your strong opposition makes you all the more careful and in fact strengthens you. The trouble with us is that we have things too much our own way, although our rivals had three or four years the start of us. Two of our Professors were charter members of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity when they were students. One of them was heard to say not long since that he thought the Betas were rather ahead.

A. GRAHAM ROBINSON, WASHINGTON, VA., TO ROGER WILLIAMS,
MIAMI.

LEXINGTON, VA., May 28th, 1870.

I send you herewith a catalogue of our College for this year with the "Betas" marked. We have, you will perceive, comparatively a small chapter, only twelve out of 350. Yet we are satisfied well with those we have.

We have received most encouraging news of late from Zeta in regard to the re-establishment of "Phi," at Davidson College, N. C. We had begun to be uneasy about Zeta not having heard anything from her for some time, but we were glad to see by the handsome letters she writes us, that she is still the first fraternity at Hampden-Sidney. This position she has always held, and from present appearances I have no doubt that she will sustain her past reputation in this respect. She hopes to be enabled to re-establish Phi through the aid of a resident Greek, by the time the catalogue is to be ready.

I hope the presiding chapter is now or has already taken measures to ascertain the present status and condition of all the now defunct Southern Chapters, in order to inform the convention in July. We earnestly hope to see them all under way by next session.

We have no doubt the Convention will be a grand success. We have hopes of sending a delegate, but as yet it is doubtful. Theta Theta expects to have a delegate. We hope at any rate to receive some account of the proceedings on that occasion, inter-

esting as it is to all Greeks. Do you expect the Catalogue will be published by the Convention immediately or deferred until next fall? We are anxious to see it. We have heard recently from several of our newly formed Western Chapters and with the tone of their letters we are very much pleased. I am more than ever convinced that upon a—I may say—*constant* correspondence depends in a great measure the success of our Fraternity. You will greatly oblige by sending me a Catalogue of Miami University with "Betas" marked.

EDWARD D. WASHBURN, VIRGINIA, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, June 3rd, 1870.

The charter has not yet been sent to Santa Clara, California and so *at Alpha's request* we will withhold forwarding it till we learn more definitely regarding the matter. Please tell Brother Salter, however to write immediately to the chapters so that the vote may be reconsidered again before the end of the session here which is the 20th of June. Is the Alumni Chapter at Nashville denominated Zeta Zeta? I thought it was Beta Alumni.

HENRY B. YOUNG, MONMOUTH, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI.

MONMOUTH, ILLS., June 9, 1870.

Your letter was received yesterday morning and since you have not heard from A A for so long (a fact which I cannot account for) I answer immediately.

In writing to you about our difficulty with Gamma I feel very much at loss where to begin but I suppose you would like to have a full statement from us. I want to say that we have "told our story" to no chapter save Xi as yet; and to Xi only because we meet each other so often and because R. W. Poindexter, an old member of Gamma, is now with them. At the beginning of the winter term two new students entered here from Washington and Jefferson College, John R. Berry and David C. Stewart. They were pleasant and stylish and were well scrutinized by all, especially the Fraternities. A few weeks after I met Brother Poindexter in Galesburg and during a conversation with him mentioned them, asking if they were members of any fraternity and their standing and worth. Poindexter said they were in good

standing at Washington and Jefferson, being sociable "smart" boys and were members of Delta Upsilon. A few weeks after that Poindexter made us a visit, spending most of his time with these boys.

While he was here we asked him what kind of Betas they would make. To this he gave us no answer that would lead us to believe that they would make anything but good Betas, provided they could be taken from Delta Upsilon. From this we concluded that Gamma would have no objections to them; judging that if they had, Poindexter would certainly have told us. Finally they were elected. Two of our boys were immediately to make proselytes of them and Matthews wrote Poindexter to be ready to come and aid us in securing them if they were slow in accepting our invitation. On Friday following they gave us their final answer in the affirmative. Imagine our surprise the following morning to receive a letter from Poindexter asking us not to "spike" them "till he had written to Gamma, as they would probably return to Washington and Jefferson next year. I suppose that he wrote Gamma; for a few days afterwards we received from it a telegram—"For God's sake don't take those two in, it will ruin us." We waited for an explanation. It came, the first letter we had received from Gamma for two years. The reason they gave us for sending us such a telegram was that they were members of Delta Upsilon. This we *could not* take as a valid reason, Gamma's saying that they had no "personal objections to them" convinced us that after having "spiked" them, it was our *duty* to proceed to initiate them. During the time between "*spiking*" and *initiation* we received several letters but they were merely repetitions of the first. We replied that we did not care what fraternity they belonged to as we wanted the *men* not their fraternity and cited them the practice Delta Chapter who has several times proselyted members of other fraternities. We also told them of their standing here in College, one stood *first* in his class and the other was not far behind and their popularity, was as their standing in their studies. Finally we initiated them. They have given new life to A A and made the Chapter of double worth to its members.

A few days after the initiation Poindexter made us a visit and said he was sorry we had initiated them as he knew it would

make them trouble if the boys went back to Washington and Jefferson, but asked us to tell our new members how matters stood. This we promised to do and Poindexter returned home to write to Gamma in order to reconcile her to the circumstances. His letter was in vain for we received a letter from Van Voorhis saying that they could never be Betas of Gamma and threatening to *expel* them if they returned. Totally ignoring the promise we made to Poindexter Van Voorhis wrote direct to them informing them how matters stood accusing A A of injustice to them in taking them in and cowardice in not telling them they (A A) could not take them.

This we consider contemptible and ungentlemanly. We do not act hastily and rashly in choosing members. We have four fraternities to contend with, each of which is superior to us numerically; and we try to make up this difference in the quality of our men. If there is anything against the character and reputation of a man we want to know it and we also look especially at his worth mentally and socially before we take him. Now if Gamma had given us anything against their character, reputation, mental or social qualities we would have had all possible respect to her wishes and in addition would have felt grateful to her for the information but then to have a Freshman talk about these men of a higher class in the way Van Voorhis did, simply because they were Delta Upsilon, is sufficient to create a sense of disgust and shame. We feel willing to overlook a great many of Van Voorhis' remarks knowing that he is at that period when fraternity spirit rules supreme and true merit is not recognized if, differing from the doctrine of that one fraternity. There is another feature which made those letters of little force. Gamma at this time is composed only of Van Voorhis (a Freshman) and Cummings (a Senior Prep.), and Van Voorhis had only been a member of Beta Theta Pi about a year having been a member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity previous to that time. We thought him therefore inconsistent in condemning the initiation of members from other fraternities.

We do not ask that Berry and Stewart be received into Gamma Chapter if they do return to Washington and Jefferson, but we do ask and demand that wherever they go, they be recognized as Betas in good standing. If the fraternity cannot allow

this and insists upon the resignation of these two, we shall take it as proof positive that the Beta Theta Pi has lost all confidence in A A and wishes her charter; and this being made known to us will insure the return of our constitution, etc., to the Presiding Chapter, as we do not wish to remain where we cannot receive the respect due to an equal. We have lost none of our love for Beta Theta Pi. It still has its place in our hearts; but the love of Justice and Honor has also its place and when brought to the test will prove its superiority.

I have had a connection with Beta Theta Pi for over four years and have worked for its support and I can assure you that in these my last days of active membership, I regret that any difficulty should have arisen. I cannot consent, however, to the restoration of harmony at the price which is asked by Gamma which is the resignation of these men. This I will never consent to until their conduct will warrant and justify the action.

I regret also that you decided to stand by Gamma before you heard our side. It would have been better to have taken no action at all until the matter was made known officially and this I suppose will be at the Convention. I think it is not fair and manly in Gamma to be writing to every Chapter in order to gain their favor and make them incompetent to decide the matter with a strict regard to justice.

I am aware that this statement is not complete. There are several other items which I should have mentioned but I fear that I am wearying you and robbing myself of time which should have been spent on other work. The whole affair will be made public at the Convention if desired, and our delegate will be instructed to attend to the matter in order that the whole truth may be known.

J. CAL. KAUFFMAN, WITTENBERG, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI.

SPRINGFIELD, O., June 14, 1870.

Your very interesting letter of the 4th inst. was received one week ago this evening as I was on my way to chapter meeting. Our boys enjoyed the letter very much. It seems that Gamma Gamma has not been favored like many other chapters in receiving a goodly number of letters from the glorious old parent chap-

ter. However let us hope that it may be otherwise in the future. Perhaps the number of members in your chapter is nearer right than ours for I think that we have too many although everything moves along in perfect harmony. When the Seniors leave we will have eleven, ten of our own chapter and Brother Boerstler of Kappa. The only objections I can see to such a small number as you have is that in case you should accidentally lose a member or two the chapter would almost be gone. But I appreciate your situation and can only say "Well Done." We have things a little too much our own way for our own good. There are about eighty in the college classes and the "Phi Kaps" not being very formidable rivals how could we help but find at least a dozen good men? I wrote to Gamma soon after I received your letter. What were Brother Van Voorhis' objections to those men? or how did he know that Alpha Alpha initiated such men? Were they former students of Washington and Jefferson College? If such was the case then my sympathies are with yours, on the side of Gamma and I see no way of settling the difficulty but in the way you suggested. We voted "No" to the *Indianola* proposition and "Yes" to the *Louisville* one. We are anxious to hear more from or rather of *Santa Clara*. I made a motion to reconsider the proposition which was carried and after discussing it we decided to postpone action on it. I was decidedly in favor of revoking our vote but the chapter thought it best to wait as our information averse to the establishment of said chapter all emanated directly or indirectly from our chapter, Xi. Now I have a great deal of faith in Xi and believe those brethren tell the truth yet I should like very much to hear from others on the subject. We expect to send a delegate to the convention but whom I do not know. We only disgraced ourselves once in our history and that was when we failed to send a delegate to *Nashville*. Our main reason was that no one wanted to or could go.

Alpha Alumni has sent us quite a number of invitations to the convention. I am distributing them among our members. We have adopted something *nice*, I think. We have a chapter photographic album and we have sent out to our few Alumni for their photos and in a few months we will have all of them gathered together. I was just thinking that Alpha would have high times getting hers together if she were to commence now.

Shake, too, I say on the Soph question. We'll soon be out of it, at least let us hope so. If you go to the convention we *may* meet. I am desirous of going and undoubtedly will.

CLEMENT J. WHIPPLE, MICHIGAN AND KNOX, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI, CATALOGUE EDITOR.

NEW YORK CITY, June 23d, 1870.

Your circular has been received, which announces the meeting of the fraternity of Beta Theta Pi. I shall hail the forthcoming catalogue with pleasure and will do anything that I can to assist in its preparation. My name in full is: Clement J. Whipple. My present residence is New York City. My occupation is ministerial; I am a reverend gentleman and am doing duty at Trinity Church, N. Y. I was initiated into the mystic brotherhood in 1863 in Ann Arbor at the University of Michigan. I was to have been of the class of '67 but I left Ann Arbor and went to Knox College where I graduated in 1868. I suppose my name properly belongs to the Michigan Chapter. Of your rules in such matters, I am ignorant. At any rate, I cannot belong to both chapters, as in our last catalogue. Be so kind as to have the mistake rectified.

This I believe is all the information you require. However, if necessary, I suppose, every true son would reveal his entire life for the good of the order. We have no connection with Eastern Colleges, but there may be members here and there. There may be some in New York City. If you know of any, can you not let me know? I long to see one; it has been years since I have clasped the hand of a true Greek. Remember that I am at your service, if I can assist you in any way.

J. T. MOOREHEAD, JR., NORTH CAROLINA, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI, CATALOGUE EDITOR.

GREENSBORO, N. C., July 12th, 1870.

Yours of seventh received. The inclosed list gives all the information I have about the brethren of Eta. Eugene Moorehead is not a brother. Eta died before he went to the University, and I believe Eli S. Shorter (who came from Hanover chapter) is on the last roll. The University of North Carolina is at Chapel

Hill and *not* at Charlotte. Eta cannot be re-established at present. The present political regime in this state has given a quietus to the University of North Carolina as a college. None of the best people of the state patronize the institution nor will they while in its present condition. It is in fact not as good as a first class preparatory school. There is a college in this state, *Davidson College*—where a chapter would thrive if the convention should desire to establish one. There is no hope of doing anything at the University within the next two years.

ELKANAH WILLIAMS, INDIANA AND INDIANA ASBURY, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI, CATALOGUE EDITOR.

CINCINNATI, O., August 6, 1870.

In the infernal heat prevalent when your letter came to hand, I had not the courage to do more than file the letter for a cooler day. This morning I fished it out and lo! the golden moment for the timely response has sped! The three weeks have gone glimmering and I feel inconsolably penitent. I trust you will keep your temper in subjection when you read this frivolous excuse and believe me muchly in earnest. I belonged to the Chapter at Bloomington before going to Green Castle where I put in my *membership*. That is why my *euphonious* name appears in two places. The name of Robert Moore, Benton, Miss., is followed by "U. S. A." That is a mistake. John Moore his elder brother is a surgeon in the U. S. A. in high rank, Robert Moore did belong to the U. S. A., but during our late unpleasantness he was in the C. S. A., as surgeon and his brother John came very near capturing him at Vicksburg. Dr. Robert Moore who is a glorious good fellow now lives in a village a few miles from Terre Haute, having moved there from Terre Haute a year or so ago. This is the only mistake I discover.

CHAPTER XII

FROM THE FALL OF 1870 TO THE CONVENTION OF 1879

GEORGE HOADLY, WESTERN RESERVE, TO ROGER WILLIAMS,
MIAMI, CATALOGUE EDITOR.

CINCINNATI, O., August 29, 1870.

I never belonged to the Harvard chapter. When I went to the Harvard Law School the chapter had ceased to meet. But I was there just after its suspension, consulted with McRae and Marvin in advising that course, and knew of its members. My membership was at Hudson, in the Beta chapter, and no transfer to Δ K E can dissolve it without my consent, which will never be given. Peck, I believe to be living, a lawyer at Burlington, Vt. Hamilton I have heard is dead. But he was a graduate of Miami University and you ought to know. Wm. S. Aumock was my classmate at Western Reserve. I have not heard of him for more than twenty years. It is news to me that he is a doctor, but he may be. When last heard of by me, he was teaching. William B. Woods graduated at Yale in 1845 was Speaker of the Ohio Legislature (House of Representatives), in 1860-1861, entered the army as Lieut-Col. of the 76th, Ohio Regiment, became Colonel then Brigadier General, removed to Montgomery, Ala., where he was elected Chancellor of one of the State Chancery Districts, and is now judge of the Circuit Court of the United States for the circuit in which he lives, Alabama, Georgia and several others of the southern states, a good Beta and a good fellow. Lemuel Bissell is still a missionary in India I believe. His brother Sanford R. Bissell is at Effingham, Ill., and could tell.

C. H. DIXON, OHIO, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI.

ATHENS, OHIO, November 4, 1870.

Yours of the 30th received in due time. I write this time to inform you that we have initiated two new members this term, *viz.*: Frank O. Ballard, Athens, Ohio; and Horace A. Ewell, Cincinnati, Ohio. Class them as students in the Catalogue. Many thanks for your offer in this respect, and I hope you will succeed in getting their names inserted without difficulty.

You mistake, we have two rivals—the Phi Delta Thetas and Delta Tau Deltas and are at “swords-points” with both of them. But Betas are too well known throughout this community to suffer any injury from them. The men who know our Fraternity most generally wait until they receive a bid from us or see that we do not intend to ask them; so we do not lose anything. Our chapter now numbers nine active, vigorous, studious Greeks and all stand well in their classes. We have two Seniors, one Junior, three Sophomores and three Freshmen.

Our Professor of Latin is a Greek (A. C. Hirst) but he closes his connection with this Institution today. He is a splendid man, and although a Professor, has proven himself a worthy member of our Fraternity. A Mr. Hatfield is to take his place, and he is also a Beta. But few of the students know this, however. He graduated here several years ago taking the honors of his class. A member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity told an intimate friend of mine (who is a member of no fraternity) a few days since that he who was to take Professor Hirst’s place would not be a Beta. Alas for his hopes! They are rudely thrown down, while the Greeks still retain three members of the Faculty—a majority—as the Faculty only numbers five. We are to have a meeting in my room this evening to give Professor Hirst a farewell.

It seems to me to be a part of the constitution of the Phi Delta Thetas to take in every one who will join them, in order to control the election of officers in our literary societies. They now have complete control of the Athenian Society here; but have not and will never have control of our Philomathean Society.

I learned from the Corresponding Secretary of Delta in regard to the initiation of Elder of $\Phi \Delta \Theta$. The Corresponding Secretary himself H. A. Buchtel was also redeemed from the same fraternity $\Phi \Delta \Theta$ several months ago.

A. HUNTER BOYD, WASHINGTON AND LEE, TO ROGER WILLIAMS,
MIAMI.

LEXINGTON, VA., November 17, 1870.

In following the recommendation of the convention, (to assign different chapters to the several members of the chapter),

it was my fortune to have Alpha allotted to me. Your name is familiar, as a fellow member of Beta Theta Pi, though in what special connection I do not now remember. My experience in Betaism has been quite extensive, having joined here in 1866-67 and then having gone to the University of Virginia and afterwards returned here to attend law lectures and I am consequently sometimes at a loss to know where to place the different members as their names are recalled.

Rho is in a flourishing condition having taken in four new men who have thus far proved themselves worthy of the name they bear. One chapter consists of eleven members.

Can you enlighten me on the subject of the catalogue? It is very important that this should be attended to at once. The old one is, of course, very imperfect now.

There are a number of fraternities here. Some very formidable rivals. Our glorious order has always been numbered among the first at this institution, and we trust the present chapter will retain the enviable reputation. Our sister and neighboring chapter, Theta Theta at the Virginia Military Institute is doing remarkably well.

EDWARD B. STEVENS, MIAMI, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI.

CINCINNATI, O., November 23, 1870.

Your appeal for aid is received. Enclosed find \$3. I don't know how much I *ought* to do in your need, but as I am not *over flush* in resources I venture to make this enclosure. There are no College associations, more now than a quarter of a century old, that so completely occupy my affections as my old associations with the Beta Theta Pi. I respected my professors and endeavored to do my duty in all my college relations; I fancy a record of my class standing in these old days would not be to my discredit, but after all, those secret greetings and secret influences, had a control over my feelings then that I have never forgotten or lost sight of. In the struggle for place and power and usefulness in the world's fight, I have necessarily lost sight somewhat of my earlier associations but I occasionally meet a "Greek" on our streets and instinctively *buttonhole him*. I can't help it, even though I sometimes seem impertinent.

W. A. THOM, VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI.

LEXINGTON, VA., December 19, 1870.

At present we have only nine cadets and two professors in our immediate chapter but Rho is located within a half mile of us so that the sisters seem more like twins than parent. Rho initiated a sufficient number of cadets to form the nucleus of the now thriving Theta Theta chapter. At every meeting of Theta Theta our brothers of Rho are represented, and how gladly would we participate with them in their gatherings, but we remember that in military schools there is such a thing as "taps" and if anyone is out of his room at that time except on furlough or on duty he goes home on an "indefinite leave of absence." Next Friday I hope to participate at their meeting but it is by no means certain that I can get off as our Principal, General Smith, is to be absent at that time and the Commandant is opposed to such freedom.

Our levy for the catalogue came at a time when we were not prepared for it and consequently I fear we will be very much behind in our payments.

Be sure to read my name correctly as T-h-o-m, and not Thorn as most strangers have a habit of doing.

JOSEPH G. WILSON, MIAMI, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI, CATALOGUE EDITOR.

THE DALLES, OREGON, December 20, 1870.

I am glad that we are to have a new catalogue. The old one needed both amending and enlarging. I shall, of course, contribute my mite. I suppose too you would prefer to have a full list and have also such information of each member as would permit your publishing so as to select what they might deem necessary. I have never known but few Betas in Oregon, one, Judge Riley E. Stratton, for eight years on the supreme bench of this state; Thomas M. Gatch of the Ohio Wesleyan chapter and who is now president of the Wilamette University at Salem, Ogn., the largest literary institution in the state. J. L. Boon, of same chapter, is now in San Francisco. John P. Garlick, of the Illinois chapter formerly a member of our state legislature, is now in California, leaving Mr. Gates and myself alone in Oregon. I

have no reason to complain of the *cold world*, so far as honors are concerned. For eight years I have been on the Supreme bench of this state—resigning on the 15th of last April. My Alma Mater, Marietta College, Ohio, in 1865 gave me the first and only honor ever bestowed on one of its graduates—by making me an LL.D.

I wish a fraternal remembrance to the Alpha Chapter.

M. STANLEY COULTER TO THE MEMBERS OF IOTA. A REPORT OF
THE DELEGATE TO THE CONVENTION OF 1871.

Reception of Delegates.

On the 30th of August last in company with several of the brothers I went to Indianapolis to attend the National convention of the BΘΠ to be held in that city. As our regularly elected delegate Brother H. A. Thornton did not make his appearance the brothers appointed me to take his place as the representative of Iota. Repairing to Room No. 30 Bates House we found a Committee in waiting for us and also a goodly number of delegates. At 11 a. m., we proceeded to the Senate Chamber where the Convention was called to order by Colonel James B. Black, President of the Chicago Convention. On this morning nothing of importance was done except the election of officers and the appointment of committees.

Report of Presiding Chapter.

The report of the presiding chapter was heard with much interest and was after a time adopted, objection being made to a clause containing the word "Negro," by one Brown of Cincinnati. The clause referred to being changed by the presiding chapter itself, it was adopted without further objection. Nothing of moment was done at the afternoon session and we will leave all details concerning it to the printed minutes.

Oration and Poem.

On Wednesday evening the oration was delivered by Rev. H. R. Naylor of New Albany; it called forth diverse opinions

from the press of the city most of which however were favorable. The poem was read by Prof. E. E. Edwards of St. Louis and its immediate publication by the city papers taking into consideration its length and the private character of the convention was a distinguished compliment both to the poet and to the Fraternity.

Report of Catalogue Committee.

On Thursday morning we heard the report of the catalogue committee which was received and the thanks of the convention returned to Brother O. R. Brouse of Alpha alumni, for his labor in the publication and to Brother Roger Williams of Alpha for his labor in the compilation.

Report of Committee on Song Books.

Report of the Committee on Song Books was also heard and committee continued. They report that after the most assiduous efforts only a very few songs worthy of publication were received by them and taken into consideration the drain made pecuniarily on the fraternity by the publication of the catalogue they thought it best to defer the publication another year.

Transfer of Catalogue Fund to Song Book Fund.

A motion was carried to transfer the money remaining in the Catalogue fund to the Song Book fund which transfer will lighten materially the expense of the publication.

On Purchase of Printing Press.

A motion to purchase a small printing press for deposition with the presiding chapter and to be used for printing the letters to the different chapters was after a lengthened discussion referred to a committee of 3. This committee in the afternoon reported adversely to the purchase of a press but advised an appropriation of 40 dollars a year to the presiding chapter for printing purposes. The report was received and the amount appropriated. The motion of Brother Harry Warren to purchase a telegraph office for the use of the fraternity was laughed down.

Report of Committee on Constitution.

In the afternoon after some few minor reports came the report of the Committee on the Constitution, of which I had the honor to be a member. This was in some respects the most important report of the Convention and as so little time—only 30 days—is given by the rules for the approval or rejection of the minutes of convention I will give the points brought forward so that you may have them under consideration. A petition from the members and alumni of Alpha Alpha praying for the establishment of a system of signs by which Betas who did not wear the visible badge might recognize each other, was received. Your committee in considering this request did not deem it expedient as yet to make an addition to the constitution to that effect, but recommended that Alpha Alpha, Monmouth, Ill., be appointed to report a system of signs to the next National Convention, when if desired the addition could be made. They also recommended that Alpha, Oxford, O., be appointed to report a design for a skeleton badge to be worn by the Alumni which would embody all the symbols of the College badge without being so conspicuous. Adopted. They recommended that in Article 10, Sections 1 and 4, in referring to National Conventions the word "biennial" should be substituted for "Annual." They recommended that Sec. 2 of Art. 4 be amended to read as follows: "No person a member of any similar association can become a member of this association. Or if any member of this order connects himself with any similar organization, he shall be debarred from all rights, privileges and membership in this association, until he withdraw from such other order, provided that if he so connects himself prior to the National Convention of 1871, he shall be allowed one year to make such withdrawal." A motion to table was after some discussion lost. A motion for its adoption was then discussed with much heat for over two hours and at last finding it could not be settled amicably in the state of excitement then pervading the Convention it was referred to a Committee of 3 to report on Friday. What conclusion was arrived at, I am unable to say—in as much as it was not in my power to attend the Friday morning's session. The question is one of great importance and our chapter should be

ready to adopt or reject the measure as decided upon by the convention and also to give the matter a personal and careful consideration. The last measure recommended was, that, in Sec. 1st., Art. 2nd, after the words "except that the Alumni chapters shall have no power to elect or initiate new members"—the following words be inserted, "but an Alumni chapter may by an unanimous vote recommend persons to the nearest College chapter for membership—by whom they may be elected and initiated in the manner elsewhere prescribed in this constitution." The report of the Committee on chapters was then read. Most chapters are in a flourishing condition, although some have not been heard from and of course in regard to them we are unable to judge. Alpha is dying in all probability with only one member and not very encouraging prospects. Encourage her Iota by cheerful and numerous letters and let some of the bright rays from your glorious sun of prosperity penetrate the gloom surrounding our "Mother Chapter" and even be the "silver lining" on her storm riven clouds.

Theta is also in rather a poor condition on account of the decided stand taken by the Board of Trustees in regard to Secret Societies—being in opposition to them. But it is confidently hoped that this year this opposition may be overcome and then Theta will again take her stand in the front rank of College Chapters. Measures were advised to be taken in order to keep alive the Chapter at Chicago University also for the re-establishment of chapters at Beloit College—Beloit, Wis.—and the University of Michigan—Ann Arbor. Also for the establishment of chapters at Evanston Univ., Evanston, Ill., and at Richmond College, Richmond, Va.

A petition signed by over 60 resident Betas in Cincinnati was read praying the establishment of an Alumni chapter in that place. Recommended for immediate action to the chapters.

On motion report was received and continued in order to make any alterations that should be needed. On motion it was resolved that the next convention be held at Richmond, Va.—on the 3rd.

Banquet.

Wednesday, Aug. 31, 1872—The banquet of the same even-

ing was an exceedingly brilliant affair, reflecting great credit on Gamma Alumni. Our last member, J. Ralph Burton, gained great honor for himself and his chapter by a successful rendition of "The Ghost." But the feast and the enjoyments are so well described in papers at hand that I will not attempt any further description of them. Suffice it to say that the whole time spent at Convention was one of unalloyed pleasure and I often found myself wishing that more of my brothers might have been there with me or that a worthier man might have represented old Iota.

Farewell to the Chapter.

And now brothers in this my last meeting regularly with you let me add my feeble testimony to the grandeur of the principles embodied in our order and the many benefits B Θ Π has conferred upon me. Stand to your colors boys and you will never regret it. Years from now when friends of our earlier life have gone—and our loved ones have gone to their last long home, when old and worn by the trials of life we shall be the "last leaves on the tree" then when kind memory weaves its golden chain and spins its most beauteous web—then in the dusty, arid Sahara of life we will see through memories dim—one green beauteous spot our College days and in this lovely oasis we will see one place lovelier still—a place decked with richer tints and more beauteous flowers, a temple filled with eager youth all pressing forward to the glittering goal—a place that memory with wings of light will hover round and over all this bright spot this brightest gem of memory's golden casket shall shine in mellow radiance those beauteous words Beta Theta Pi.

EDW. C. BOUDINOT, MICHIGAN, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI,
CATALOGUE EDITOR.

ANN ARBOR, MICH., January 9, 1871.

I have just received from Brother Thos. M. Baxter of Chicago a letter enclosing one from you which he requests me to answer. I am not well posted as to the profession of most of the persons named, nor do I know the address of many but when

asked about their fidelity I can readily answer, for I was the *only one* of nineteen who in 1865 clung to dear old Beta; was the only one who fought the union with Psi U and for six months I was Lambda chapter; and when I left college Lambda Chapter ceased to exist. But the trials of that year made our Fraternity doubly dear to me and today I look with pride as well as satisfaction at the badge that decorates my breast, the Badge of Beta Theta Pi. But to your answer:

James C. Watson, Ph. D., Professor of Astronomy.

O. W. Coolidge, Niles, Mich., Lawyer.

V. G. Barbour, Unknown, Unknown.

J. W. Barnhart, Boonsboro, Iowa, Lawyer.

W. A. Ewing, N. Y. City, Doctor.

E. C. Boudinot, Spec. Ass'r. Int., Rev. 2nd Dist. Miss.

B. F. Paddock, Terre Haute, Ind., Merchant.

Geo. C. Palmer, Detroit, Mich., Lawyer.

B. B. Wilson, Unknown, Unknown.

John L. Turrell, Buffalo, N. Y., Unknown.

Edmund Adams, Unknown, Unknown.

Clement J. Whipple, N. Y. City, Minister.

The others you name are unworthy of a place in our Catalogue because of their desertion.

I shall return to Mississippi soon. I am here recruiting from ill health. Please send to my address here a Catalogue when printed. And if this is not satisfactory write me any how and say what is lacking. I am anxious about a catalogue. Don't forget me.

HENRY C. THORNTON, HANOVER, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI

HANOVER, INDIANA, January 13, 1871.

Your last two letters came duly to hand and now for a reply. First about catalogue business. The first two Scovels are spelled with one "l" (they are brothers); Henry S. Scovel and Sylvester Fithian Scovel; the third one James Wallace Scovell has two "ls"—one of a different family, same as in the Catalogue.

Epsilon is by this time reorganized and so you must get their completed list and remove the "*Prime*" from the catalogue. Iota has transcended her authority in this matter, for being solicited

for a copy of the constitution for the purpose of reorganizing Epsilon by the old Betas at Danville, we finally sent them the Constitution and Ritual, but not until we had received two appeals for it, for we hesitated, knowing that the presiding chapter should have been applied to instead of us. Our Alumni there had elected four fine fellows, the finest in the College, who had received propositions from all the other chapters there but would not accept any. I hope that we will be upheld in our action in regard to Epsilon. Let us have your impartial opinion on the matter.

At our last meeting we voted to propose a chapter at Franklin College, Franklin, Indiana. This is a Baptist College and the only one in the state, and is in a prosperous condition. Brother Lozier, the chaplain of the Betas, resides there and is anxious for the chapter. There are six men there who are to be charter members and are the best fellows in College. What does Alpha think?

PROF. CHARLES W. SHIELDS, PRINCETON, TO ROGER WILLIAMS,
MIAMI, CATALOGUE EDITOR.

PRINCETON, N. J., Jan. 13, 1871.

I return to you the enclosed list with such corrections as I am able to make. It is more than twenty years since I have met with any of the members of the fraternity or had any knowledge of its operations. I am glad to know that it still flourishes and hope you will include me among the subscribers to the new catalogue.

Since my note to you yesterday it has occurred to me that I should have stated that owing to an existing law of this college, prohibiting such secret fraternities and made since I joined this one, I could not consistently be represented as now sustaining the relations of an acting member, especially if it should be proposed to reorganize the Princeton Chapter. You will therefore, I doubt not, perfectly understand my motives in requesting that my note of yesterday be not permitted to pass out of your hands and that no other use is made of it than that for which it was written, of affording the information requested. It would be best to destroy it immediately.

ROLLIN W. SAWYER, WESTERN RESERVE, TO ROGER WILLIAMS,
MIAMI.

IRVINGTON ON HUDSON, N. Y., Sept. 9, 1871.

I am glad to obtain a catalogue of the old College Society and thank you for affording me this opportunity.

I entered my protest too late, indeed, against the defection of the old Beta Chapter and have felt since then that the last special link between my College associations and myself had been severed.

I wish you and all the brothers of the Alpha Chapter all success.

LEW J. DUNCAN, HANOVER, '79, TO THE BOYS OF IOTA CHAPTER
BETA THETA PI.

QUINCY, ILLS., Sept. 12, 1875.

My beloved Brothers:

I have long neglected those of you with whom I have been in correspondence but it is not because I have forgotten them or because I have not wanted to write to them anymore for I do love to receive your letters dearly and I like to sit and talk with you through the poor medium of pen and ink and paper of the good old times we have passed together and of the prospects for the future. But boys one great reason why I have not written is because I have been having a fearful attack of the blues and all because I feel as though I had about lost all I ever loved or care to love in that I am not able to be with you this year. This is my everyday thought. While I am busy at my work my thoughts run back to the boys and of course to the *girls* of Iota and oh at times my heart can't help rising up into my throat and the tears starting into my eyes as I think of you and the work of this year and the pleasures gone by and those to be. I smile as I think of the glorious songs we used to get away with and the moonlight walks and the boat rides, the picnics, the girls and the songs—boys I'd give \$25 00/100 to be with you if it was only for 3 days ! ! Now having vented myself in this manner let me drop it and tell you something about myself since I left you. Most of you know that my attempt to canvass the *Cross & Crown* was a miserable failure. This how-

ever is nothing now as I am used to failing. Well I just after my failure learned that it would be almost impossible for me to get the cash to take me to school for a year more so upon looking around I finally struck a job at which I could make a little money. It is this. I am clerk, such as it is, for the Quincy Horse Railway and Carrying Co., all I do is simply to fill up packages with tickets, receive the money for the same and at night collect the money received during the day, keep the account of all this cash. For this I receive the sum of \$5 00/100 per week. Small to be sure but it is a soft snap. I only work about 6 hours per day. Now you will say what do you do in the meantime. I study. I am reading Livy and Memorabilia and studying geometry. I have engaged a tutor. We have not come to any understanding yet on the question of expense but I shall be able to pay him with what I make. And if I do not keep up with my class I'll "swallow my pigeon toed socks." I hope Davis will keep me posted as to how the class progresses in these studies. Does the noble Wish still perambulate with his graceful gait to see the beauteous Annie McKae and does the youthful and sarcastic Horace still talk in language dark and mysterious of turning out something with the indefinite name of side-boards and does he still exert his amiability to the bustification of the hearts of the fair? Or does the fair and witty Heber still smile benignly on all the chapter and still condemn with clenched teeth that "darn scrub Tina Muir" and the Δ 's generally. And does my little wife Charlie still recline gracefully upon his hams vainly striving to get in a good sound slap on Davis leg and does he prosper in the swinging of the pen as recording secretary? Charlie I'll try some of these days when I feel good as I do today to slip in a note on you. I suppose the cheerful Hinkey is in my fix. Poor Hink I can sympathize with him for if he is at College what a blessing it must be. If he is there is no use in asking if he has been to see any of the girls he would as naturally start right out as a young duck does to water. And Foster does the studious youth still grace the streets, or Avenues of Hanover and does he still come out with that right bass voice of his in "*Vive la Vive la va*"? It is an aggravation to write that line I only wish I could swell my voice with you all not only in that but all the old songs in which we used to join so melodiously.

And Sturgiss of course is happy I can see him now as he appears in the chapter meeting with that sweet child-like smile spread over his countenance like butter and molasses on a slice of bread. And Davis my old chum how goes it with him? I owe him a good long letter and he shall have it soon as also shall Gilpin.

Davis my friend I am sorry very sorry that I shall not be able to help you out this year on the girl question but the girls all like you; I happen to know this from observation and hearsay, and if needs be go sometime when you are not exactly in the notion. It will do you good. Whatever you do Davis do not neglect that charge I gave into your tender care.

And now Gilpin how are you, I'll bet my boots that you are happy. I wish my dear old pard that I could once more embrace you and look into your eyes while at the same time I'd take your "bower" with my "joker" I have not played a game of Euchre since I have been home. Have the $\Phi\Gamma\Delta$'s spiked you yet for a settler? Or has any other fraternity been smelling around you yet?

Well here I start on my second sheet and do not see as I have said very much either. It is all this "I wish I was with you." But you will not wonder if it is so when I tell you that I only wish that about Eleven Hundred and Seventy-seven times per day. And yet I shall not complain. Possibly the good Lord knows his business better than I do and if it is his good pleasure that I do not go back this year, well and good for he has some end to attain thereby and "He doeth all things well."

Perhaps it is after all a dark and threatening cloud that for the time obstructs the sunlight and makes the future dark and gloomy but which, as in its course it passes the sun, will disclose a silver lining and the light will only feel more precious for the interval of darkness.

Boys let me now charge you all when you go among the girls do not forget me. Since I have returned home I have not found yet a girl that can compare with the Beta girls of Hanover for good sound sense and saying nothing of beauty. And now boys here is a secret to you all in—et—. There is one little girl in Madison that cleans out all the girls I know for beauty of face, disposition, and common sense and that is Susie Moffatt. I cannot help thinking of her as my thoughts run back to college

and Beta, and I wish over and over again that I could see her. I do not wish to convey the idea that I am badly mashed or anything of the kind but whatever you think of it remember that it is told in—et—.

Now attention Iota chapter B @ II. While I relate something concerning what we all love

namely a

DORG ! ! ! ! !

and it was a do(r)gon good one too.

Shortly after I returned I heard that there was another Beta visiting here from Green Castle (Δ) named John Goodwin.

He heard the same of me. And for days we were wandering around trying to find one another and finally one evening I was sitting at my organ playing the old Beta songs and just as I came to the chorus of "Vive la" I was stopped by "I believe that sounds familiar. I suppose this is LEW DUNCAN?" "And this," said I, "is John Goodwin. How are you?" We gripped and immediately felt as if we had been acquainted for 40 years. I spoke to him then of Castle, a Beta who lives here, he said he would go and see him. He did and reported him a fine fellow. After a week or two we laid our heads together (and our pocket books) and we hatched up an offering to old Wooglin. We had the raw dorg first, candy and three or four kinds of cake, sponge included, and peanuts and almonds. We invited Castle to come but he was unavoidably detained. He was as sorry as one of us would be if we were kept away in some unavoidable manner from a dorg at College.

I and Castle see one another now frequently. He is a fine young fellow of about 25 years. He is in the Stove, tin and Hardware business and is in a fair way to make it a grand success as he and his partner are both very enterprising. His father also has lots of stamps.

He and I are going to meet and eat dorg together before long. In regard to the one Goodwin and I had. We had more than we could get away with but Iota still maintained her position on the dorg question and I came out ahead; he caved in and could eat no more while I bettered him on one cake and a double handful of nuts.

Well fellars what is the prospect for this year and how many

boys that have come in are good and sound ones fit for B Θ II? How many have you spiked, how many are you on the track of? Some of you tell me these things. Look here boys since I have written the chapter a letter why can't the chapter write me one? What do you say to this?

Well fellows and brothers in B. I have just about exhausted myself in this effusion having only been about 1 3/4 hours in writing it so with love for the Beta girls and Mary Roland I bid you good bye.

TO IOTA CHAPTER.

Air "Oh I'll bet you fifty cents"

Though our paths asunder run
Yet we hope the time will come
When melodiously our voices we shall raise
When with hand gripped into hand
In our circle we shall stand
While in unison we sing to Beta's praise.

But e'er comes this happy day
Some perchance will pass away
To the land where ne'er is heard sad sorrow's sigh
But where Peace and Joy and Love
In their home of light above
Hand in hand shall walk with B Θ II.

Then let each his course pursue
So if the summons comes for you
You prepared shall be to enter in your rest
And grant oh God on high
That each Beta Theta Pi
Shall be received among the bright and blest.

LEW J. DUNCAN.

CIRCULAR LETTER FROM THE PRESIDING CHAPTER.

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY, LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA.

September 18, 1871.

Rho, entering upon the duties of presiding chapter, offers her heartiest good wishes to her sister chapters throughout the coun-

try, and with her love and zeal strengthened by the sense of her responsibility, calls upon them for their earnest co-operation in the advancement of the highest interests of our beloved order. Brothers, let not the fire on our altar burn low, nor the radiant light from that glorious motto be darkened. Success has abundantly crowned our efforts. All over this broad land are those who separated oft by thousands of miles, are united in the bonds of Beta Theta Pi. Let us, then, bestir ourselves for the further advancement of the good work. How is this to be accomplished? By united purpose. How is that united purpose to be secured? Mainly by an active, full and accurate correspondence. To insure the proper performance of this important duty, the following suggestions are offered:

I. That the president of each chapter see that at each meeting the secretary gives sufficient excuse for not having answered all letters read at last meeting.

II. That the accompanying blank be filled out carefully, so that a correct list of secretaries may be sent to each chapter.

III. That if any chapter be grossly delinquent in correspondence, the fact be reported to the Presiding Chapter, that she may take the matter in hand and endeavor to remedy it.

With these precautions, it is hoped all difficulties on this score may be avoided.

The proposition recommending the establishment of a new chapter at Richmond College, Richmond, Va., submitted to the fraternity by Pi, is strongly urged. This school is increasing in strength and favor every day, and numbers among its faculty (twelve in number) J. L. M. Curry, LL.D., Hon. J. D. Halyburton and Wm. Green, LL.D., three of the most distinguished jurists of the country; also Wm. Taylor Thom, M.A., of Rho, who will, in conjunction with Bros. Wm. C. Powell and W. A. Thom, Jr., of Theta Theta supervise the formation of the new chapter. The meeting of the Convention at Richmond, Va., next year, makes evident the necessity of a resident chapter there. An immediate response on this head is asked for.

THOS. S. PURDIE.,

President.

G. M. EFFINGER,

Cor. Secretary.

EDWARD L. WARREN, CENTRE, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI.

DANVILLE, KY., November 8th, 1871.

Some days ago I wrote to Brother Brouse of Chicago asking him to send us some catalogues. He replied that he sent all he had left to you. I suppose our chapter was overlooked during the distribution of the catalogues. Be so kind as to send us as many as you can. I suppose you know that no assessment was made upon "Epsilon" as she was re-established *after* the assessment was made. However, as we had recently borne the expenses of getting pins and the necessities of a chapter (as all of our old papers, seal etc., were lost during the war), an assessment could hardly have been paid. "Epsilon" was reorganized here toward the close of last session with five members. Now she numbers nine. The other secret societies in College are the Alpha Kappa Phi which has for a few years back been the leading society; the Delta Kappa and Phi Delta Theta both doing *poorly*.

At the last commencement the Alpha Kappa Phi lost their best men and now Beta Theta Pi is acknowledged not only by the students but by the citizens, to be the finest society in College. We have two members in the faculty *viz.*: President, O. Beatty and Rev. J. C. Randolph.

A. N. GRANT, INDIANA ASBURY, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI.

GREENCASTLE, IN., November 8th, 1871.

I do hope you will let us hear, *immediately*, concerning the matter whereof I write. Last night we had a chapter meeting and we are extremely anxious concerning the future of Alpha. We feel conscious of the fact that our order has been too careless about the standing of the men applying for chapters, too eager for *new* ones, and too much *unconcerned* about the welfare of the old chapters. We feel that it will be a disgrace to let Alpha die; if we can save it by sending one or two good men there for a term, or two, we will, for the love which we have for old Beta, send them. Now we want to know what you think about this plan.

C. J. Seaman, of Cleveland, who was at the convention at

Indianapolis, and who is getting up the Beta Song Book offers to raise \$50.00 for the purpose of hiring some good Beta to go to your place and help to restore Alpha to her former greatness. If you think it would help you any, we will make the attempt to send two men from here to remain with you one or two terms. We also think that Kappa can furnish a man. Last night we voted for a chapter at Richmond, Va.

Delta is in a very prosperous condition and sends her warmest Greek love and she also extends her sympathies, in *this*, your hour of tribulation. We number three seniors, four juniors, four sophomores and three freshmen. We also have three or four men in the crucible of inspection at this time, and we entertain sanguine hopes that they will prove themselves worthy by showing good metal.

A. N. GRANT, INDIANA ASBURY, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI.

GREENCASTLE, IND., November 25th, 1871.

Your communication of the 18th inst., has been received and I assure you that Delta eagerly devoured the contents because she feels that *her* interests and Alpha's are identical. Now my dear Brother we must say that we were greatly pleased with the manner in which you presented the situation. But plain and clear as it was presented, still we would have been better pleased had you said positively when to send the assistance, without throwing the matter wholly upon us. We had a meeting the same evening that I received your kind favor, and after considering Hepburn's opinion, your statement of facts, and the possibility that we can do more good next year than *this*, we concluded not to send men this year unless further developments make it necessary. However if *you think* it will benefit you in any sense, let us know, during any time of the year.

I will now tell you what course we have decided upon and then you can let us know how you like it. We will endeavor to send one or two men to Alpha at the beginning of next year. Moreover Kappa at Athens, O., is in a fine condition and I think can spare a man next year. We have five chapters in Ohio as Theta is not dead. But Theta is in her own hour of tribulation and perhaps will not be able to do anything. So leaving her out, we want urgently to press upon the remaining three to send a man

apiece to Alpha next year. They can do it without a doubt if they will.

Besides the claims which we are in favor of urging the Ohio chapters, we will call upon each of the Indiana chapters for a man. So there will be demand for three Ohio and four Indiana men and if the above chapters will consent to this plan *Delta Chapter* stands ready with two men and more will be sent if it is absolutely necessary; but we do not want to rob ourselves.

Out of these eight men proffered certainly four or five would put in an appearance, which would be sufficient with the co-operation of Hepburn and Alpha's Alumni.

We propose *sending* a man from Delta to each of the Indiana chapters to work this matter up. How do you like the plan? Be frank about it; say what you think and knock it in the head if you have a better plan.

I have not heard how our catalogue cut stood against the fire fiend, but I think it collapsed.

We sent our Song Book assessments several weeks ago. Theta still takes in men on sly and thinks she will not die at all. W. M. Jones is the Corresponding Secretary. Do you think it would be a good plan for "Brother Roger Williams" to write to each of the Ohio chapters and ask them to come to the rescue of Alpha. They might think us Indianians were a little too enthusiastic and hence would not respond as readily as they might otherwise do.

I will now tell you a contemplated "raid" which our Delta boys are working up. It is on this wise. A wealthy farmer residing about 10 1-2 miles out of the city, has three daughters; all naturally sharp, intelligent and good looking. One of them has been in the city for some time and as a sequence, she has become a Beta girl. So she concluded to give a Beta entertainment at her father's residence. She proposed; we accepted. Accordingly next Wednesday at precisely 3 o'clock and 15 minutes p. m., we are going to leave the city furnished with a full and fine livery regalia consisting of four double, and five single rigs. We propose moving out with great *éclat*. The cream of the affair is this, every Beta of Delta Chapter goes, every Beta takes a lady, and we don't expect to get back till midnight.

SAMUEL N. WILSON, HANOVER, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI.

HANOVER, IND., January 20, 1872.

A happy new year to you, who I suppose are the lone representative of "Alpha." In vain have been our efforts to hear from you. If you got my letters I owe you a scolding that you have never replied. I have no doubt that your time is much occupied but still can't you spare a moment or two to tell us what you are doing, how the land lays and matters and things in general? Somehow it seems that correspondence is very slack this year and I am sorry it is so, for on it to a great degree depends the general prosperity and unifying of thought and feeling in the Order.

Yet, I think the Chapters are mostly prosperous, and matters of general interest are arranged more systematically than ever before. I suppose you have at last received the minutes. They were lost and had to be rewritten. Do you know how the Song Book is progressing? I think that will greatly add to the interest of our meetings.

I wish, Roger, you could be with "Iota" sometimes when she gathers her band. We are fourteen strong; two however, are at Franklin College, Ralph Burton and U. M. Chaille, whom we initiated a day or two before the close of last term on the recommendation of several resident Betas and the hearty approval of Burton. Chaille had been a friend to us for a long while and hoped if a Chapter was established *there* to have become a member. We were well pleased with him and although not a brilliant man he is possessed with fair ability and will be a credit to our Fraternity. The College will probably close soon for want of funds; if so he will come here.

But I have rather wandered from what I intended to say. We make our meetings improve both our social and intellectual qualities. Our literary performances are orations, essays and selections. Our criticisms are more rigid and searching than those given in the Societies but made with the kindest brotherly feeling. But then we have our fun even in this. Three or four of us indulge in Rhyme, and we dish up the latest jokes and hits on one another for the edification and enlightenment of the Chapter. Shakespeare, Jr., is the presiding muse and to him all articles

are respectfully dedicated. Your humble servant is sometimes handled by a brother to the great amusement of the others. This is the time for our annual Beta supper when we have the girls. I don't know when we shall have it yet. Brother Smith Miller boards in the country and he told me confidentially that he had a pup fattening and that he was going to have the boys come out there at our next meeting if they were willing. We will have a gay time, will probably vote on a gay fellow a promising member of a lower class. All the boys send warmest love and well wishes.

W. ALEXANDER THOM, V. M. I., TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI.

RICHMOND, VA., February 3rd, 1872.

Brother W. C. Powell and myself, both Alumni of Theta Theta, have succeeded in establishing on a very firm basis a chapter at Richmond College situated just beyond the city limits and are now at work on an Alumni chapter to be established in the city itself. Kappa Kappa has done us the honor of electing and initiating a gentleman of the city on our recommendation who will be a member of the Alumni chapter which will go into operation as soon as the charter arrives, and that is hourly expected. We have quite a list of zealous Alumni here, so are at no loss for members.

Can you tell me anything of the publication of the song book and Wooglin Legend? We are all very anxious to see them but have heard little or nothing of them since the minutes of the convention were published.

Let me hear from you soon and tell me about O. R. Brouse of Chicago; he was an old correspondent of mine but I have heard nothing of him since the fire.

C. H. DIXON, OHIO, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI.

ATHENS, OHIO, February 20, 1872.

I have been intending to write to you all term, but have been so busy I could not find time. I have heard with regret that Alphas has only *one* man and that one yourself, and that you will leave this year when the Chapter will become extinct. I have heard from Delta Chapter that a proposition is on foot for

each Chapter in Ohio and Indiana to send at least one man there at the beginning of the year so as to give the chapter a fresh impetus. I heartily approve of this movement and I will do all in my power to aid it. We must not let the mother of Betaism die on our hands, although she would die an honorable and glorious death. Kappa is flourishing. We now number twelve, two of whom were lately initiated.

LOUIS BERKELEY, WASHINGTON AND LEE, TO ROGER WILLIAMS,
MIAMI.

LEXINGTON, VA., February 26, 1872.

In the division of the chapters the other night, I was very fortunate in having Alpha assigned to me, and I hope that we shall be able to keep up a regular and brisk correspondence, for the rest of this session. Although the oldest Beta in this Chapter, I have had very little experience in writing letters to Beta brothers, for my part in the proceedings of Rho has been to attend to the money matters and to furnish "Dorg" at the meetings. I have been a Beta for three years and during that time have gotten more new men for Rho than all the rest put together. I have been very fortunate in selecting new men, and have only failed in my selection once, which I think is doing very well.

Rho is flourishing and has as many members as she wants at present. Theta Theta was so very unfortunate last week as to lose one of her best men—Brother Jas. D. Johnston of Virginia. He was one of the truest, most honorable, and popular men I ever saw, and is truly a loss to our Fraternity, especially at the V. M. I., for he was one of the most influential men we had there. Our Chapter attended the funeral in a body, but Theta Theta could not as the Faculty of the V. M. I. are very much opposed to Secret Societies, but so long as Brother Charles Duy Walker remains there, I am not afraid of Theta Theta's going down. I suppose you have heard of the "fuss" Gamma Gamma and Theta kicked up about the proposed chapter at Wooster. Brother Kauffman has cooled down and is now more like himself but we have not heard from Theta yet, and I am afraid that she won't honor us with a letter soon. I don't see what more they could ask of Rho, for she put the matter before the Fraternity

long since, but I suppose they both took offence at our saying that we put great confidence in what you said. *Your vote has been recorded.* I, for one, shall do my best to prevent the Wooster chapter from being established, for I agree with you in wishing to see Beta chapters only in first class colleges.

J. D. WHITE, BETHANY, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI.

BETHANY, WEST VA., March 4, 1872.

Psi chapter at Bethany College was re-established on the 13th of January, 1872. You have no doubt been fully informed of the fact before this, by the other chapters. Our membership now, is as follows, '73, J. H. Nesslage of New York, '75, E. J. Gantz of Niagara Falls and J. D. White of Greensburgh, Ind. We cannot do very much this year in the way of increasing our membership as we had a late start. But next session we will try and have a chapter that will hold its own with any of the others. We are all coming back next session, "*Deovolente*." Our rivals are Phi Kappa Psi and Delta Tau Delta. But we fear neither. I regard them as very inferior fraternities. They will not begin to compare with our own glorious fraternity. We hold our meetings every alternate Friday evening, and it is an occasion of the greatest enjoyment. We have no literary exercises, as yet. In place of that we read the correspondence from sister chapters (which I hope will be increased by contributions from Alpha) and this is one of the most pleasant features of the evening.

D. C. STEWART, MONMOUTH, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI.

MONMOUTH, ILL., April 3rd, 1872.

We have not heard from you for some time, and are becoming anxious to know whether you are still bearing alone "the burden and heat of the day." We have great affection for our *Maternal Ancestor* and we are deeply interested in her future welfare. We have no fears for her prosperity while you are with her, but we would like to know whether you have succeeded this year in finding any whom you deemed worthy to "wear the badge and bear the name" of Beta Theta Pi. We sincerely hope you have some kindred spirits with you whom you may leave behind to keep bright the flame on the cherished altar of our

Alpha chapter. Our chapter is in a flourishing condition numbering eight active members, and almost as many resident "Greeks" who join us at our meetings. Phi Delta Theta and Phi Kappa Psi are our rivals but we fear them not. Our senior class this year numbers forty-six and Beta Theta Pi will wear its laurels. Bro. Berry will take the *First Honor*. All reports from the Fraternity are encouraging. We were glad to hear of the establishment of Kappa Kappa at Richmond College, also of the Alumni chapter at Richmond, Va., and the reestablishment of Psi at Bethany College, W. Va. How did you vote on Wooster? We sent in a "red hot" aye notwithstanding a "high toned" letter received from Rho discouraging it; I think they have been misinformed in regard to the standing of the institution, it is worthy I think of a chapter of Beta Theta Pi. I wonder what is the reason our *song book* does not make its appearance? I would also like to see Bro. Lozier's *treatise* on "Wooglin." This week we have vacation and a good many of the students have left town. Next term opens on the 9th. You, like myself, I suppose will at the close of this year bid farewell to college days; "I'm pleased and yet sad." I can scarcely realize that I am so near through; it seems almost like a dream but the dread reality will come soon enough. Our whole class appears on Commencement and our time is limited to five minutes; it's a grand bore but we have to submit to the "powers that be." Alpha Alpha sends warm Greek love to Alpha. *Write to us soon*. With many wishes for your success, I'm ever your brother in———and———

JAMES H. ANDERSON, BETHANY, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI.

BETHANY, W. VA., April 4, 1872.

I thought that I would write, being one of the secretaries, (we have two) to ask you if you have any catalogues, to please send us a few as soon as possible, as we are in great need of them. We are a new chapter, revived only a few months ago, and are as yet small in numbers, though strong in our faith; and we need all the requisites to keep us going smoothly. I don't know whether or not you know how it is with a new chapter just started, but there is nothing more encouraging or that tends more to increase its prosperity, than to have catalogues and all such

things that they need. We have only four men at present, but they are all filled with the true Greek spirit, and work with a will in anything that may pertain to the great order. I am from Richmond, Virginia, where our next convention is to be held, and look forward with a great deal of pleasure to the time when we shall gather at our Shrine there. By the way, I would like to ask you if you know whether or not a chapter has been established at Richmond College, Richmond, Va.? We sent in our vote on a proposition received from fifteen Alumni residing at Richmond, to establish an alumni chapter there which I suppose will be established. I hope that you will find it convenient to answer this very soon, as nothing makes the boys feel better, than to hear letters read at our meeting; letters from those who are tried in the harness.

JAMES CUMMINS, WASHINGTON, PA., TO ROGER WILLIAMS,
MIAMI.

WASHINGTON, PA., April 16, 1872.

Nu is prospering finely and is in a most splendid condition, numbering nine men, all whole souled, true, ardent Betas and devoted to our cause. To tell the truth about our fellows, I never saw a better crowd of boys together. One of our fellows takes the first honor and another the second, this year. We had three on the last Contest between the literary societies (which by the way, is a great thing with us, all entering into it, as into a matter of life and death), who were successful over men of the Delta Tau Delta. You are, I suppose, aware that we have reestablished Psi chapter at Bethany and it is now in a good condition, considering all things, numbering four, all of whom I've met, except one, I found them splendid fellows and well worthy of our order.

It casually came to our ears that the Faculty, were going to adopt measures to suppress Fraternities and the fraternity men here immediately held a caucus to oppose such a measure and a committee of two from each fraternity, is even now at work drawing up resolutions, etc., as they (the Faculty), have not made public their intentions, of course we go on as usual and will until they do make known their plans, but we have *no fears* at all; at

most they can only stop the wearing of our badges. And that is nothing we can get along as well without them as with them.

We have a pretty good stronghold on the inhabitants of the female persuasion, and it seems to be a universal fact that the Betas are great for ladies' society. Our Greek professor here is a Beta and we have four or five other resident members. Our rivals here are Delta Tau Delta, and Phi Kappa Sigma, but neither amounts to much, taking in every and anyone, especially the former.

BRYANT O. COWAN, WITTENBERG, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI.

SPRINGFIELD, O., May 12th, 1872.

Gamma Gamma is prospering finely. We now have *two* babes. They are P. T. Spinning a soph., of Springfield, O., and B. F. Failor, a Freshman, of Newton, Iowa, both of whom we initiated on the 3rd of May.

After we had spoken to Spinning, yet before his initiation, a Phi Kappa Psi approached him with the very *encouraging* information, "that if he would be a good boy he could join their Fraternity." And you can imagine their consternation when Spinning, one morning, appeared wearing a Beta badge.

But our Chapter has very recently, won other victories, and has also reaped bright laurels. Last Friday evening our Literary Society celebrated its anniversary, having four Betas on the programme of six performers, the other two being Phi Kaps; and suffice it to say that *all* the Betas did themselves credit, and *one* of the Phi Kaps also. But the *important* part is yet to relate, *vis.*: That Bros. Grosscup and Kauffman have taken the First and Second Honors of their class, which fact was made public on the morning following the literary exercises. The Phi Psi came in *third*. I think this will be a fruitful year for our order in point of honors.

A. N. GRANT, INDIANA ASBURY, TO ROGER WILLIAMS, MIAMI.

GREENCASTLE, IND., May 20, 1872.

Although I am very busy, yet I am never so busy that I cannot take a few moments to write to Betas. I think that Delta

Chapter never was in as thrifty a condition as now. I write to you for a catalogue of Miami in order to see how the two courses compare. Or in other words, I wish to find out whether a man can leave sophomore here and enter junior there; also whether a man can leave junior here and enter senior there.

How do you like the new Song Books? We think they are very magnificent. Brother Seaman surely deserves the warmest thanks of the Fraternity.

But back to the original question. I think Delta can surely send two men to Alpha next year, and that is the reason why I write for a catalogue in order to see how courses run. Please find out from Brother Hepburn and then let us know whether a Beta man will have to pass examination there before entering provided he comes with a clear card from here. Also tell us whether Miami is going to wane or not. Several of our boys visited Tau the other day and found in a most prosperous condition.

JOSEPH G. WILSON, MIAMI, TO THE MIAMI CHAPTER.

THE DALLES, OREGON, June 6, 1872.

My desire to visit the East and meet again my brother Betas seems about to be realized. A hard fought political campaign has ended in a triumph and three days ago I was elected to Congress from this State. I expect to go East this fall, and as your Chapter has given me frequent evidence of remembrance, I hope then to return my thanks in person.

RHO CHAPTER, BETA THETA PI, WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY.

LEXINGTON, VA., June 8th, 1872.

The Presiding Chapter would make the following announcements to the Fraternity:

I. Lambda Lambda Chapter at Wooster University, Wooster, Ohio, has been organized.

II. Zeta Alumni Chapter at Richmond, Virginia, has been chartered; Cor., Secretary *W. C. Powell*.

III. A proposition has been received from Brother S. R.

Booker, of Zeta, asking that a Chapter be founded at *Howard University, Marion, Ala.*

No. of Professors *six*; amount of Endowment \$75,000, and rapidly increasing;

No. of Students *180*; other Fraternities *Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Alpha Gamma*; No. of Charter Members *6*, the first men of the University. The prospects of the University are good, and there is every indication that it will rank among the first Colleges of the South. Brother *Booker* will not be in Marion next session, this consequently will be the ONLY opportunity. If your vote cannot be forwarded by Mail before the 15th of June, send it by Telegraph. *Zeta, Omicron, Rho, Theta Theta and Kappa Kappa. Vote aye.*

IV. The 33rd Annual National Convention will meet in the Hall of the House of Delegates, in the State Capitol, at Richmond Virginia, on the 21st of August. Delegates will report at the Exchange Hotel. Every Chapter is URGED to send a delegate. The inclosed Blanks must be filled out and sent by delegate, or to *C. D. Walker Exchange Hotel*. The interests of the Fraternity make it an Imperative Duty to send the yearly due; when it is impossible to send by delegate, remit by Post Office order to *W. N. Johnston, Exchange Hotel* who will hand it over to the Finance Committee.

V. The Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements for Convention *C. D. Walker, Box 148, Lexington, Va.*, requests Secretaries of different Chapters to send him the addresses of their members, during the vacation, as there will probably be some delay in getting out the programmes.

VI. The Presiding Chapter requests a final letter from each chapter, stating number, standing prospects, etc., to enable her to make out her report with a full knowledge of the condition of the Fraternity.

H. St G. TUCKER, President.

Ashley Cabell.

Cor'g Secretaries.

T. S. Purdie.

JOHN D. S. RIGGS, CHICAGO, TO SAMUEL L. WARD, WABASH.

ROCKFORD, ILL., October 2, 1872.

I am happy to be able to announce that after about three years of patient effort, I have at last succeeded in establishing a flourishing chapter of our loved Fraternity at Beloit College. The chapter is composed of six members, two from each of the three higher classes in college, all full of enthusiasm.

In company with Brother William D. Swinton, formerly of Xi Chapter, now a member of '73 in Beloit College, I formally initiated the charter members of Chi on Friday evening last (Sept. 27th). W. A. Fuller, one of the petitioners for the charter of Chi, and whose name is on the charter, has this year entered Yale College. Brother Swinton is anxious that his name be substituted for Fuller's on the charter. Would it be allowable to do this?

William B. Keep is Corresponding Secretary of the new chapter. If you write to him, address the envelope to him as a private individual and not officially, as it is necessary that the chapter be carried on *sub rosa*, at least for some time yet.

Will you please send me a Catalogue of Wabash College? I should like to see what kind of an institution it is, and have never seen one of its Catalogues.

CHARLES DUY WALKER, V. M. I., TO SAMUEL L. WARD, WABASH.

OFFICE OF GENERAL SECRETARY BETA THETA PI.
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, FAIRFAX CO., VA.

October 14th, 1872.

Yours of the 7th and 10th instant to hand. The substitution of Swinton's name for Fuller's is undoubtedly the proper thing; I have so written to Riggs.

I shall put myself in correspondence with a lithographer in a short time about the charter; have you any suggestions?

Do your level best for the Beta Theta Pi, and we'll make "Tau's" reign memorable. Have already promise of about twenty subscribers. Epsilon is all serene. Will S. Kennedy is Alpha Chapter, but won't be alone in his glory long. Write to

him. I am a busy man now; have two recitations to attend daily in my Theological course, and besides am teaching my brothers Latin, Greek, French, German and mathematics, writing on two books and doing what I can for Beta Theta Pi—"Jack of all trades, good at none." Love to Tau and yourself.

JAMES H. ANDERSON, BETHANY, TO SAMUEL L. WARD, WABASH.

BETHANY, W. VA., October 19, 1872.

I received your letter, or statement, a short time since and hasten to reply. In regard to Beloit College, I have written to her indirectly; that is Brother Covington wrote me the brother through whom a letter would reach her and so I am awaiting an answer. With reference to our men, I would state that the whole of Psi Chapter have been taken in since the last Catalogue was published. Our names numerically arranged are as follows:

Anderson, Jas. H. (your humble servant), Gantz, Edward J. McMillan, Frank C., McNeill, Frank P., Nesslage, John H., Odell, Benjamin B., Jr.

With this splendid list of names we mean to work and work for Beta Theta Pi. We have taken in two men this year, or session I should say, and I believe the pick of the new students, which is saying a great deal.

Old Psi is prospering and even if we don't take any more in this session, why we have enough to run things all right, and that is all we want. We have received the minutes and are very much pleased with them; and I think they reflect credit on Walker, who had charge of publishing them. By the way, how is Kent. I have not heard from him since I saw him in Richmond. I hope that he is progressing. James Cummins, of Nu, writes me that the fraternity boys at Washington and Jefferson had a slight rumpus there the other day. He said that one of the Phi Kappa Sigma, or Skulls as they are generally called about here, went for a Delta Tau and "put an extra head on him." That is I suppose he did.

Allow me as the exponent of Psi, to extend the right hand of fellowship to Tau, and to hope that in all the duties attendant upon the Presiding Chapter, that she may work her way through them, and when the Louisville Convention assembles she can

say with the Presiding Chapter of '71 that he have *safely* encountered all the difficulties and have at last arrived safe into the harbor without the loss of even a single spar. Please make excuses for this as it is after one o'clock now. So with my best to Kent, as well as for you and Psi's true Greek for you, I am your brother.

THE SECRETARY OF THETA, OHIO WESLEYAN, TO SAMUEL L. WARD, WABASH.

DELAWARE, O., October 31, 1872.

Theta sends true Greek regards to the most worshipful presiding chapter, and acknowledges the receipt of her two communications.

You sent us no blanks to record our vote on the proposed chapter at Lawrence, Kansas. It has been given with a great deal of pleasure in favor of the chapter.

We have everything favorable to report from Theta and make still greater promises for the future. We were unfortunate in failing to be represented at the Convention. Our delegate disappointed us, although he was not to blame. So we did not get as good a report as we even deserved.

Our membership eleven, and I may say that there is no evidence that we will lose our *first rank* in College. Of course we get the first choice from the emancipated students, and now feel free and independent indeed.

We have on foot several important enterprises for the honor and glory of "old Wooglin." One of them you will understand from the circular we enclose.

We have joined hands with the Sigma Chi fraternity (our best friends here) in inviting the "Great War Governor" "*Brother Morton!*" to lecture here for us. His charges are \$200. We are good for it!

We would like to have you give us some information about Lozier's "Legend of Wooglin." Can you get us a copy, or tell us where to procure it ourselves?

EDW. J. GANTZ, BETHANY, TO WILLIAM H. KENT, WABASH.

BETHANY, W. VA., January 28, 1873.

I have a sad case to report to you for your consideration.

You have never received any communications from me, but as I think the present case requires, I write to you on my own responsibility, Brother _____ and myself were initiated at the same time and constituted the first members of the revived Psi Chapter. It has been uphill work for us, ever since we have started for two reasons. First we had strong opposition from the other Orders, secondly, I am sorry to say, my fellow laborer does not bear the best of characters, and in a College like this, where the majority of students are studying for the ministry, such a person is a very great drawback. It has been my duty as a Christian Minister and a Beta, to do all that I could for him. For one year I have tried to keep peace and harmony in the Chapter but now, all the members have a dislike for him and matters have come to such a pass that he openly violated our Constitution and the By-laws of the Chapter. He has even gone so far as to offer to fight two of our members. I happened to be present at one of these scenes, and succeeded in quieting him. Last Saturday we had a meeting and instead of meeting with us, he went and drank beer until intoxicated with some of the Delta Tau Delta's. He opposes nearly all the names that are proposed of men of more principle than himself. He will be the means of breaking up our Chapter yet, if there is nothing done. I know of three that have said that they will not stand it much longer and I am one of the number. What shall we do?

He is afraid of nothing, and openly defies us. He will not take advice from any one. He is young, only eighteen years of age and it is hard for us that are older, to be pulled down by him. Give us advice and we will act upon it, if we possibly can. He has another year at College. We number six, and five of us are firm.

JOHN W. MACKENZIE, VIRGINIA, TO SAMUEL L. WARD, WABASH.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, January 28, 1873.

We enclose our vote on the Randolph-Mason question. Omicron is jogging quietly along with eleven men. We have been working like the Prince of the Nether Realms this session and are now enjoying our "*otium cum dignitate*." Let us hear from you often.

CHARLES MARTIN, INDIANA ASBURY, TO CHARLES BENTON,
WESTMINSTER.

GREENCASTLE, February 14, 1877.

I was exceedingly glad to hear that Alpha Delta still holds her own, but is not any more than we expected to hear.

We have had no time to fool away for the last two weeks at Asbury. There has been an unusually successful revival going on here conducted by a lady from Chicago.

Just think, out of the *College* students, numbering over 200, there are not more than 25 unconverted, and the chances are that they will give in soon. Also out of 225 prep's, there are not more than 50 unconverted.

At present Delta has four Seniors in College, and two more to be in next term, six Juniors, one more next term, five Sophomores, and four Freshmen, not to say anything of the Perps's we have in tow and can take whenever we want them.

We moved into our *new Hall* last term, and there is not a better fraternity hall in the place. We have two rooms and a long hall; deadened walls all around, and a skylight for air and light. The most ferocious specimen of the canine race might howl his loudest there, without danger of being overheard by those not concerned. We know this by experience, having tried the experiment three times in the last three months. There will be an Indiana "Olio," "Paladium" or something of that nature, gotten out here by the different fraternities next term; have you anything of the sort at Fulton? How do you conduct chapter meetings? Give us all the news.

CHARLES MARTIN, INDIANA ASBURY, TO C. A. BENTON, WESTMINSTER.

GREENCASTLE, APRIL 19th, 1877.

Delta, through her assistant corresponding secretary, sends greeting to her sister Alpha Delta. Well, Delta still prospereth and hopes to hear the same from Alpha Delta.

At our first meeting this term, from the actions of our purp we soon found that nothing except a human victim would satisfy him! So after the *necessary* discussion, we settled upon W. W. Dunnington, a resident of this place, who would have been a

"Beta" long years ago if he had not been compelled to leave College. He has always been a true and warm friend of the "Beta boys" and it seemed like mere formality to take him "in."

But, wonder of wonders! the purp instead of settling down and keeping quiet after his full meal became more excited than ever, and we became so afraid that his groans and yells would be heard by the police we stuffed him full enough to last some time; this time we "took in" a prep. who has been pledged to us about a year, and the Presbyterian minister at this place. The latter is a warm friend of Harry Buchtel, who was present and presented them to the "dorg." As usual we had a glorious time, and as to "twins," I never heard better "Baby" spoken than theirs. We now thought we had the "purp" fixed but on my last visit he was winking and whining.

There are now 470 names on the college record this year. We have a regular Army Officer now to take charge of the military.

The Beta holds more positions than any other fraternity; *only* 8 out of 16— how will that do?

J. A. BURHANS, INDIANA ASBURY CHAPTER, AS CATALOGUE EDITOR, TO C. A. BENTON, WESTMINSTER.

CHICAGO, ILLS., May 16, 1877.

The publication of Beta Catalogue can be delayed no longer. I have been designated by the Committee and presiding Chapter to raise the required \$800 or \$1,000 from the fraternity. Your assessment has been placed at \$25. Other chapters are to furnish \$60 and \$75 each. Your chapter contributed \$30 to the last Catalogue of '70. If you can do as well this time, the grateful thanks of a sorely pressed committee will be yours. I would suggest you have appointed *at once* one or more of your members to collect this fund and forward to my address as early as possible. We wish to push the catalogue during the coming months and have it ready for use by Fall opening. To every contributor of a dollar or more a copy will be sent as soon as out. It is to be gotten out in improved style with plate of founders, etc.

Please forward me a complete corrected list of all new members, changes, etc., stating to whom "proof" may be sent during

vacation for correction. Has your "*Coat of Arms*" been sent, or have you one?

I trust you will aid the Committee substantially and promptly in this Catalogue business.

B. L. SMITH, BETHANY, TO THE WESTMINSTER CHAPTER.

BETHANY COLLEGE, W. VA., October 6, 1877.

Early in the year Psi finds herself with renewed resolutions of a "heap big" correspondence with her sister chapters, and conceiving that we are all sisters equal and that one must make the advances, and as the corresponding secretary of Psi is very willing to make advances to anybody's sister, we find ourselves dedicating this initial letter "of the season" of '77-78 to you and trust that our forwardness will not shock your modesty and that you will even deign to favor us with a communication, telling us of your increased prosperity and renewed enjoyment under the shadow of our protecting Wooglin. We are growing: Last year we numbered fourteen; this our number will reach fifteen or sixteen.

We had the extreme pleasure of making the Phi Kappa Phi fraternity sick last week, a young gentleman from Peterboro, Va., was the pill; we think from a diagnosis of the case that a little S_2 SO_4 will aid them materially.

We are in receipt of a request to vote on the Johns Hopkins University proposition; of course our vote will be aye.

We have under consideration, a proposition to build a hall for our chapter; if you have a hall, tell us of it as to size, furnishing and cost, also any suggestions you may favor us with, that will assist us in our work will be gladly received.

I invite you to favor me with an account of the inside work of your chapter meetings. It is a practical subject and one that I would like to see discussed.

We are in receipt of the initial number of the Beta Theta Pi and will send on a healthy subscription next week. We think since the price has been reduced to \$1.00 that the subscription list should show a corresponding increase, for we know Rankin will give us a paper worthy of the fraternity if he is supported.

CHAPTER XIII

FROM 1879 TO 1884

J. C. HANNA FOR A COMMITTEE OF THE WOOSTER CHAPTER, TO
THE WESTMINSTER CHAPTER.

Oct., 1879.

We write you to ask your opinion in regard to the action of the Convention interpreting Section 10, Article II of Constitution so as to prohibit the initiation of preparatory students. So far as Alpha Lambda is concerned it is simply suicide to pursue any such policy, and we believe this is true of many other chapters. It may seem a good plan to those colleges which have no preparatory department such as Harvard, Cornell, and other Eastern chapters which rely on separate High School and Academies for Freshman recruits; but in most Western Colleges, as in ours, the Preparatory Department is as much a department of the college as the collegiate department so called and those students have the same faculty and are intimately connected with upper classmen, and are *universally* initiated by all rival Fraternities. Our rivals here Phi Kappa Psi, Sigma Chi, Phi Delta Theta, as well as ourselves have always initiated preps., and for us to stop it will give us no chance for competition. Ninety per cent of every freshman class here comes from the Preparatory Department and the freshman class starts out at the beginning of the year with its full force of men in each fraternity and to follow out the injunction is simply to withdraw from the contest and surrender to the other fraternities.

We have written to all the western chapters, believing their interests are just as ours in the matter. We feel that something must be done *immediately* and know of no other way than to correspond with the chapters. If you have the *same opinion* in regard to the matter, we hope you will file a protest with the Board of Directors immediately, as we intend to do, so that the necessary action may be taken within the time given in the Constitution, Article III, Section 5. We hope you will report promptly and tell us how you stand on the question.

WALTER E. DENNISON, OHIO WESLEYAN, TO THE CHAPTERS.

CINCINNATI, OHIO, October 6, 1879.

Enclosed find the colors of Beta Theta Pi, adopted by the fraternity at its Fortieth Annual Convention. That uniformity may be secured, it is desired that you show them to all brothers near you. They are emblematical and may be worn on occasions of rejoicing and all other suitable times. In their purity we find signified the holy purposes of our order and in their harmony we see symbolized the perfect blending of souls under the genial light of unsullied friendship. As a stain will destroy their purity, so will unworthy motives tarnish the escutcheon of honor and as in deeper contrast their gentle harmony is lost, so in discord the bonds of fraternity are broken. Let Beta Theta Pi be ever true to the purity and harmony of her chosen emblems.

WILLIAM R. BAIRD, GENERAL SECRETARY OF ALPHA SIGMA CHI,
TO E. B. MCCLURE, WESTMINSTER.

NEW YORK CITY, October 7, 1879.

Pardon me for addressing you but I hope my object will be my excuse. As you are doubtless aware the fraternity of Alpha Sigma Chi will on the 22nd of this month merge itself into that of Beta Theta Pi. I am an active, I might say a very active member of Alpha Sigma Chi and since the matter has been practically settled I have been endeavoring to help the Beta fraternity as I can. I invite your attention to the within circular and you will better see my position. I can readily command information from many sources and I am in correspondence with the authorities of nearly every fraternity. I learn from a recent letter from George Banta, secretary of Phi Delta Theta that they are anxious to enter Westminster College. Knowing my resources he said that if I could present the matter to your chapter in any way he would be much indebted and could guarantee you a chapter in Missouri University.

Now Mr. Banta is a Phi Delta Theta through and through but he is a good deal of a gentleman and I would recommend the matter to your attention. If the Phis would give you the names of one or two good lads at Missouri University you certainly could

use them as a wedge. The President of the University is a Beta Theta Pi and you could readily ascertain the character of the applicants from him. Can you give me any tidings of Alpha Iota? Major Ransom says that it is alive and I have been insisting it is dead with equal pertinacity.

E. J. BROWN, GENERAL SECRETARY, TO E. B. McCLURE, WESTMINSTER.

HARRISON, OHIO, October 11, 1879.

I don't know whether you are at Fulton this year or not, but I know of no other way of getting into correspondence with the chapter at Westminster except through you. I failed to get a report from your chapter last year and hence do not know who your Corresponding Secretary is to be for this year. I hope you will inform me at once, should this letter reach you.

Some time ago I received from a Phi Delta Theta resident at Franklin a proposition like this: If you will furnish me the names of men at Westminster College to establish a chapter of the Phi Delta Theta, I will furnish you the names of men at the University of Missouri to establish a Beta chapter at that Institution. I replied that I could say nothing about it until I had consulted with the Betas at Westminster. I think it probable that there is not material for another chapter at Westminster, and I am not certain that the way is open for a chapter at the University of Missouri. What do you think about it? Get this matter before Alpha Delta chapter if you can and report to me the opinions of the brethren.

I am sorry you were not represented at the Convention. We had a grand Convention. The address of the Editor of the Beta Theta Pi for this year is John I. Covington, Cincinnati, Ohio.

EDWARD J. BROWN, GENERAL SECRETARY, TO THE CHAPTERS.

HARRISON, OHIO, October 29, 1879.

The General Secretary sends greeting and congratulations to all the chapters. I take pleasure in announcing to the fraternity that the movement for the union of the fraternity of Alpha Sigma Chi with Beta Theta Pi has been happily consummated. The consummation was finally attained under the direction of a duly con-

stituted commission consisting of Wyllys C. Ransom, Michigan; Robert W. Smith, Williams and Charles J. Seaman, Denison, at Ithaca, N. Y., October 22, 1879.

Five new chapters have thus been added to the roll of our beloved fraternity. We should greet them as sisters. We should promptly welcome our new brethren with fraternal salutation. I give below the names of the new chapters with the names and addresses of their Corresponding Secretaries. Immediately upon the receipt of this circular I hope that the Corresponding Secretary of each chapter of Beta Theta Pi will cause to be sent from his chapter to each one of these new chapters a fraternal letter of congratulation and welcome. Let no Corresponding Secretary neglect this duty.

The chapters and Corresponding Secretaries are as follows:

Beta Gamma chapter, Rutgers College, H. H. Cameron, New Brunswick, N. J.

Beta Delta chapter, Cornell University, G. W. Mann, Ithaca, N. Y.

Beta Epsilon chapter, St. Lawrence University, J. L. Heaton, Canton, N. Y.

Beta Zeta chapter, Stevens Institute, Henry C. White, 127 Hudson Street, Hoboken, N. J.

Beta Eta chapter, Maine State College, W. R. Howard, Orono, Maine.

JOHN I. COVINGTON, EDITOR OF THE BETA THETA PI, TO THE
CHAPTERS.

November, 1879.

I wish to make a personal appeal to your chapter to purchase at least one copy of the new book entitled "American College Fraternities" by William Raimond Baird.

It is the book of all books for active Betas to have in their fraternity work. It is thoroughly fair, impartial and comprehensive and is the most deserving work of the kind that can possibly be produced and is a text book on the subject.

Mr. Baird, the author was so impressed with the Beta Theta

Pi fraternity that he urged an union of his own fraternity, the Alpha Sigma Chi with the Beta Theta Pi which union was consummated last month.

Every member of your chapter should have a copy of the book, at least the chapter should buy one for the chapter's use. Send one and one half dollars for one copy to

William R. Baird, Box 655, New York City, N. Y., without delay and read the book carefully after receiving it.

MORE EARLY RECOLLECTIONS

LEBANON, OHIO, Dec. 8, 1879.

Mon Cher Covington:

Your admirable number two is at hand, reminding me of your urgent but very fraternal request. My name, however, appears already, so often, associated with the rare old letters you have summoned from the "vasty deep," that nothing but my characteristic egotism permits me coming to you so promptly with my memories of the royal good fellows that figured in those days of the fathers.

Taking up your last number, somewhat *seriatim*, I am happy to bear in mind that I know most all of "the founders" with a pleasant college intimacy; and it does me a great deal of good to look back over the stretch of these long years and think they were well "worthy to bear the name and wear the badge of Beta Theta Pi."

Reily Knox left "Old Miami" the commencement before I entered college, but he was frequently back amongst the boys, and I learned to know and love him well, long before I knew anything about Beta. I read the old letter you reproduce once more, with the zest of thirty-six years ago, when I was an enthusiastic collegian. It is a very characteristic letter; its reading will make you as well acquainted with Reily as if you had spent an evening with him. I knew Hardin and Taylor, Marshall and Linton and glorious "Leb." Smith, Duncan, Ryan and Weatherby—all of them well. Charley Hardin, you know, was lately Governor of the great state of Missouri, and a good Governor he made—he couldn't help it—he was and *still is* a good Beta. I had the honor of having him for room-mate for one term, and so came to know

and appreciate his worth and capacity better, perhaps, than many others.

In those days Charley was regarded as one of the strong men of college. I knew him as one of the most industrious, untiring and ambitious of men; but I also knew him as one of the most sincere, devoted and tenderly attached of friends. Governor Charley Hardin and the Hon. Sam'l Shellabarger, of Ohio, were classmates. I well remember a society and class struggle for a speakership. Unfortunately, (as some of us thought) Charley was beaten, and I shall never forget the bitter fight it developed in the society hall. *Then* I entered into its spirit, as an angry partisan; but *now*, and for long since, I have looked back to those days as days of glorious strife developing character, and mapping out the future. Hardin, then, was father of the coming man.

How pleasantly and tenderly Knox referred to those brothers in the conclusion of his "recollections." *Vide* page 42.

You also print a letter from Stanley Matthews to Jno. A. Collins, under date of 1841. Of course, in *these* days, I needn't tell you anything about Hon. Judge Matthews, but in the days when that letter was written—well, just between you and me, John—it was quite another thing; and Stanley Matthews wasn't any more likely *then* to be U. S. Senator from Ohio, than Rutherford was to be President. Still, I call to mind many pleasant hours spent in his old office, and the enthusiastic prophecies he used to make to me about the gold dollar that would sometime be in circulation!

As to John Armstrong Collins—he was of good stock—up there at Maysville at college he was certainly the most brilliant, most eloquent young man I ever met. He was precocious. Politically, he was an ardent Whig, and even in college days he was already a brilliant stumper. Of course, like all enthusiastic Kentuckians of that day, he loved gallant Harry Clay with a lover's earnestness. Alas! he died young—too young.

The letter of Culbertson, of Athens chapter, to myself in 1843, which you have resurrected, has some pleasant suggestions. Amongst the list of membership are two or three who have not failed in the life struggle. McCabe has long been an ornament to the pulpit and to classical teaching at the Ohio Wesleyan University; Milt. Latham, you know, went to the Pacific Coast, and

was at one time, Congressman from the young State of California; one of the Safford boys, (J. M.) went forth, and has long occupied a prominent place in Tennessee. He is now Professor of Chemistry in the University of Nashville; Shotwell had a bright promise, but died just on the threshold of life work. He had commenced the practice of law at Hamilton, Ohio.

For the present, this will do; college days have long since passed for—yours truly—and the bustle and struggle of bread-winning has displaced many of the pleasant memories of those golden days, until called up with almost painful distinctness by the clasp of unexpected and fraternal greeting, or the sunshine of your Journal; but I fancy amid all the roar of the great battle there are impressions made on the head and heart of a college man that go out no more forever; of these things I am glad to believe the good Greek never forgets.

Yours in the bonds of—kai—

EDWARD B. STEVENS.

JOHN S. GOODWIN, DISTRICT CHIEF, TO THE CHAPTERS IN THE
WESTERN DIVISION.

BELOIT, KANSAS, January 21, 1880.

Wake up! Write to your "Chief" tell me all about it, give me your chapter history if you have not already done so and let us join hands and work together to make this the banner District of Beta Theta Pi.

We want Alpha Beta at Iowa State University, Iowa City, reestablished. If you know or can hear of any Beta there, *write* him. Alpha Epsilon, step to the front and take hold of this particular matter!

We want Alpha Iota (Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.), transferred to the Missouri University, at Columbia, Mo., and a *good* Beta chapter started there. Alpha Delta can help in this wonderfully!

We want a chapter at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. There are five applicants but no organizer unless Bro. C. T. Thompson, Minneapolis, Minn., will take hold. Let every chapter write him a letter urging it upon him.

Let us all go in the "Revival" business. "Write, brothers,

write with care." Our eastern chapters are being built up, let us keep pace in the West. There are only a few of us. Alpha Beta, Alpha Epsilon, Alpha Iota, Alpha Nu, Alpha Omicron, Alpha Omega and "yours truly" and two of us are dead. Use postage stamps brothers and *write*.

WILLIAM RAIMOND BAIRD, TO THE CHAPTERS OF BETA THETA PI.

NEW YORK, N. Y., January 28, 1880.

In 1870, there was founded a society at Brown University on a basis similar to that of our various chapters. It determined not to confine itself to Brown but to establish chapters in other colleges and accordingly placed a second chapter at Rochester University in 1874. This latter chapter became extinct in 1878 through accidental and totally unforeseen circumstances. The Brown chapter called the Alpha of Phi Kappa Alpha has never met with any adversity and since its foundation has successfully rivalled all the chapters at Brown, *viz.*; Alpha Delta Phi, Delta Kappa Epsilon, Delta Phi, Chi Phi and Delta Upsilon. It is strong in numbers in wealth, in local influence and in scholarship. Many of its Alumni are members of Phi Beta Kappa, it has repeatedly taken honors and it occupies the very first position in the University. The chapter owns a fine hall, possesses an organ and other furniture and is in excellent condition in every way. Early in 1879 correspondence was opened with the chapter and at a meeting held January 9th, the chapter voted unanimously to apply for a chapter of Beta Theta Pi. It is this application which is now before you and for which we ask your vote. The chapter if chartered will revive the chapter once situated at Brown in 1850, it will greatly help our Boston chapter and it will give us another strong chapter in the East where the name of Beta Theta Pi is appearing after 30 years absence.

With a chapter at Brown, another strong point will be occupied. The chapter already being strong will need no nursing and operations can be at once commenced on other of the New England Colleges. We were appointed a committee by our honorable Board of Directors to arrange this matter and we ask you to vote in the affirmative, to send in your vote at the earliest possible date and to make no mention of the matter to other fratern-

ity men. The personal character of the members is vouched for by the Alpha Upsilon chapter. We trust to your good judgment to thus promote the interests of old Beta Theta Pi.

C. J. SEAMAN, EDITOR OF THE CATALOGUE, TO THE CHAPTERS OF
BETA THETA PI.

CLEVELAND, OHIO., January 31, 1880.

The Indianapolis Convention of '78 gave the Catalogue Committee power to throw the defunct chapters into a special list at the close of the catalogue, or to transfer their membership to contiguous living chapters. The latter plan will probably be adopted. The advantage of this change must be apparent to all. To continue to carry the little groups of names dignified with the names of chapters and occupying conspicuous position is truly damaging to us as a fraternity and of untold *advantage* to our powerful rivals. We are entering on a new era in which our fight will be for the most part with more powerful rivals than we have hitherto had to contend with. We must gird our loins for the fight and reorganize our *roster of chapters* so as to present as *nearly as possible* an *unbroken* front to the foe. This elimination of defunct chapters from the list (*i. e.* the *hopelessly* defunct chapters) will leave *gaps* in the alphabet of letters, almost as fatal to the catalogue as the presence of the defunct chapters themselves. Now are you willing that the committee, with the approval of the Board of Directors shall reassign chapters when it may be necessary to accomplish the ends indicated, providing your proper priority of organization is maintained? Lose no time in replying to the question, for unless prompt answer be made, the committee will not be able to complete the Catalogue this college year.

State also whether you are willing to have all chapters lettered according to the date of organization—as the Constitution provides in the case of new chapters. If we do not do this we shall have the incongruity of the first chapters arranged regardless of the date of establishment and the rest in regular order of organization. There is no time for general discussion if the Catalogue is to be placed in your hands this year. You must trust to the judgment of the Catalogue committee and Board of Directors. Everything is at a standstill awaiting this decision.

EDWARD J. BROWN, GENERAL SECRETARY, TO THE CHAPTERS.

Feb. 1, 1880.

It gives us great pleasure to announce that another star has reappeared in the firmament of Beta Theta Pi. Alpha Beta chapter at the University of Iowa, for some time defunct, has been revived with the most favorable prospects and again enrolled among the active chapters of the fraternity.

This step in reconstruction is largely due to the efforts of Brother Lewis H. Jackson and other Alumni Betas of Iowa City, Iowa, and our banner again floats in the Iowa State University.

I heartily congratulate the fraternity upon this cheering and auspicious event and soundeth notes for a steady advance all along the lines. The address of the Corresponding Secretary of Alpha Beta chapter is: Wm. B. Burnet, Iowa City, Iowa.

WILLIAM R. BAIRD, CHIEF, EASTERN DISTRICT, TO THEODORE B. WALLACE, WESTMINSTER.

Mar. 1, 1880.

I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of the catalogue of Westminster College. Why don't you place a chapter in the University of Missouri? The University has never been in a better condition, there are a very large number of students there and only two fraternities both of which are of little account. Alpha Iota at Washington University at St. Louis has just become defunct through indifference on the part of the members and it seems to me that your field of work is at these two colleges. Have you no active Alumnus in St. Louis who could get the Betas together to reanimate Alpha Iota? It is a shame and a disgrace that a chapter should die out so. Some of our boys from Cornell have lately visited St. Louis and say that while the men in the chapter are all good men still they don't know anything about Fraternity work and fraternity life. I ask you, how can we in the East extend our ranks to other first class colleges when we are hampered by the fact of having so many dead chapters? Won't you exert yourself in this matter? I would be much indebted for a catalogue of your members with full names.

WM. RAIMOND BAIRD, STEVENS, WILLIAM W. JAGGARD, DICKINSON, THOS. MCK. T. MCKEENAN, WASHINGTON AND JEFFERSON, TO THE CHAPTERS.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., March 5, 1880.

We urge you to vote in favor of the accompanying application for a chapter of Beta Theta Pi and we do this for many reasons which we here present: A chapter at the University of Pennsylvania covers an important point and forms a strong link between the chapters in New Jersey and those in Maryland and Virginia. Each year the other chapters in the state (Alpha Sigma and Gamma) send from three to five Betas to complete their professional studies in the University and it will provide these with a chapter home. It is likely that in the near future the number of chapters in Pennsylvania will be much increased and we will need to occupy the most prominent University in it. The barrier to the entrance of the fraternities has been broken down and we will get ahead of our rivals and secure our position if a chapter is established at once. The Beta Theta Pi's in Phila., occupy prominent and important positions and will help the chapter by their influence, the resident Betas will be on hand to help, encourage and guide the young chapter. Fraternity material is abundant now, the University is one of the best and wealthiest in the country and the fraternity is assured in advance of the chapter's continuance. We recommend an immediate action in this case for many local reasons and know that the applicants are worthy to be Betas and the College is worthy of a chapter. The results we leave to you.

EDWARD J. BROWN, GENERAL SECRETARY, TO THE CHAPTERS.

HARRISON, OHIO, March 13, 1880.

It gives me great pleasure to announce to the fraternity that Mu chapter for some years defunct has been revived and once more enrolled among the active chapters of the Beta Theta Pi. The revival of Mu chapter is owing largely to the efforts of John A. Heron, Chief of District IV and the brethren of Epsilon chapter who showed their usual zeal and energy in this good work. Much credit is also due to Brothers W. T. Shannon and A. H.

Stevens of Alpha Omicron chapter at Trinity University, Texas, now students at Cumberland University, for their valuable assistance in this enterprise.

The address of the Corresponding Secretary of Mu chapter is R. H. Sanders, Lebanon, Tenn.

JOHN A. CARNAGEY, HANOVER, TO FRANK N. PALMER, WABASH.

HANOVER, IND., March 13, 1880.

I have been looking for a letter from Tau ever since the opening of the year, but no letter has come. I suppose you have been expecting a similar communication from Iota, have you not? All right. If you don't write to me, I will to you. So there! Iota has nine men in college this year. Two seniors; three Juniors; one Sophomore; one Freshman; two Preps. Every man of us takes the *Beta Theta Pi*. We can't afford to be without it. Four of these men we have initiated this year. One of them William B. Allen, Indianapolis had to be worked for, I can tell you. He came here recommended to the Sigmas and he fully expected to join them.

But, no! The fates had decided otherwise. A Beta spike well driven decided his destiny. The Sigmas made a bold fight, but all in vain.

They were greatly chagrined over their defeat. The Deltas (Phi Gamma Delta) also spiked him. The other three we secured without any positive resistance, although the Sigmas were after one of them.

Our rivals here are: Sigma Chi (15); Delta Tau Delta (13); Phi Gamma Delta (9); Phi Delta Theta (7). You see two of them outnumber us; but it is *only numerically*. They take in men whom we wouldn't have under any considerations. Go with me into the classroom, and you will see "who is who." Our motto in selecting men is: Quality first; quantity (number) afterward. The Sigmas here look to numbers; The Delta Taus to wealth; The Phis to anything they can get; and they don't get much of anything I can assure you. They are about as near nothing as can well be found. The Deltas generally get pretty good men, although they miss it sometimes. How do you stand with your rivals? I heard that the Delta Taus at Wabash had gone over

to the Phi Kaps. Is it so? I had a Post Card from Seaman last evening. He says Mu is on her feet again. This is as it should be. I think we should turn our attention for some time to come to the reconstruction of defunct chapters. We have too many chapters with "prime" attached to them. It looks bad.

Send congratulations to the Corresponding Secretary of Mu, if you have not done so. Let us encourage them all we can. Write to us telling us of your men; your prospects, in fact *everything*.

E. E. FOREMAN, KENYON, TO THE WESTMINSTER CHAPTER.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, Mar. 18, 1880.

In accordance with the idea of inter-correspondence now so prevalent, and well received in Beta Theta Pi, Beta Alpha sends greeting.

We are situated at Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio. This letter is written at Columbus however, as you will see. Our rivals at Kenyon are Psi Upsilon (7 members), Delta Kappa Epsilon (7 members), Alpha Delta Phi (10 members) and Theta Delta Chi (3 members).

Beta Alpha contains 12 just as loyal Greeks, as can be found in Beta Theta Pi who represent the classes as follows: 2 Seniors, 2 Juniors, 3 Sophomores, 5 Freshmen. Our Seniors are the honor men for this year.

We contemplated building a stone chapter house, as you perhaps may have learned, but have abandoned the idea for the present, as the expense would be too heavy for the men just getting through college. We are now discussing plans and figures for a frame lodge which shall at least eclipse Delta Kappa Epsilon's, the only one now at Kenyon.

How does Alpha Delta prosper? And what do you think of this idea of inter-correspondence? Who and how strong are your rivals? And what does Alpha Delta think of the proposed change in chapter names?

I intend to visit the State University at this place where I expect to find a *few friends*. Have you received the Brown University proposition yet? We had a "dog" last month which was a *whole litter of pups*. Beta Theta Pi and Delta Kappa Epsilon

are very friendly as they are really very manly fellows. Three of their best members came within an ace of being Betas. Psi Upsilon and Alpha Delta Phi have in a silent but tacit manner, seemingly reached some mutual understanding, regarding ourselves and Delta Kappa Epsilon. Which I imagine is partly induced by a want of sympathy, as they have Beta Theta Pi, Delta Kappa Epsilon and Theta Delta Chi against them.

LOST TRIBES

COLUMBUS, ARK., March 30, 1880.

C. J. SEAMAN, *Cleveland, O.:*

Brother Greek.—A circular came to this office this morning, addressed to David S. Walker, and was promptly forwarded to him. Catching the insignia of dear old Beta, I ran through the contents, and am delighted to put myself once more in communication with the fraternity. While a student at Oglethorpe University, near Milledgeville, Ga., in 1859, I became a Beta, and upon this wise. We had a society, known by its initial letter "E," which had for its aim and purposes almost the identical characteristics of Beta, and it is with pride I can now recall the standing of that modest pink rosette upon commencement occasion. Upon four of those anniversaries, consecutively, she bore off the highest honors of the institution.

In 1858, J. Graham Brown came from Davidson College, N. C., and was received into the "E" society. Very soon after he began corresponding with the Phi chapter at Davidson, of which he was a member, looking toward the establishment of a chapter at Oglethorpe. Correspondence eventually resulted in a commission from the constituted authorities to the Phi chapter, and the chapter was organized by ushering the "E" into the fond embrace of mother Beta. I have no data by which to establish dates and speak only from memory; but, if you have a catalogue of 1859, you may see that Phi was the last chapter given, and Brown's name the last upon it (printed, however, J. J. Brown, erroneously). Our chapter was not established in time to be enrolled in that year's publication, a copy of which is before me.

The political excitement of 1860 became so intense, our class was hurried through and graduated a month earlier than the

regular season, and was the last class of any note emitted from the dear old college. Her finances were largely invested in Confederate securities, and of course lost. After the war her friends gathered together all available resources and moved to Atlanta, hoping to again place her in position to regain her lost fortunes and launch upon a career of still nobler and higher proportions. Their hopes all faded, as the people were too poor to give that assistance she must have or pass away. After two or three years of unsuccessful effort, the trustees abandoned the enterprise and removed what was left to the old buildings near Milledgeville and established a high school. Thus much in explanation of the fact that our chapter never took its proper stand in the society. Personally I have been isolated for Lo! these many years. I took my badge with me into the military service and lost it. Allow me to give from memory a few names that are no dishonor to Beta:

J. GRAHAM BROWN, of Marion, S. C., killed in the war. His brother, Rev. J. D. A. Brown, Orangeburg, S. C., can give all information you may wish.

JAS. A. McCAW, Mobile, Ala., first honor in our class, a man of rare intellect, now living. McCaw is now doing well in the commission business, Mobile.

EDWIN P. CATER, Charleston, S. C. Do not know where he is. McCaw can tell you.

ELLIOT LOXEY, Alabama. Inquire of McCaw about him.

B. L. BAKER, Walthourville, Ga., Minister and man of fine talent. I do not know his present address, but you can get it from my brother, Rev. E. M. Green, of Danville, Ky., who was an "E," but graduated and left before Beta was established at Oglethorpe.

A. J. COVEY, Chattanooga, Co., Ga., killed in battle.

W. B. SAFFORD, Milledgeville, Ga. Think he moved from there, have not heard of him since the war. Enquire of Hammond or Harrison (names below).

*JOHN L. HAMMOND, Milledgeville, Ga.

*Z. D. HARRISON, Milledgeville, Ga.

Last and saddest of all, is John Ditman, of Pensacola, Fla. A man of talent, was a youth of brilliant promise, but wrecked upon the soul-destroyer—*whisky*.

Begging your personal indulgence for so lengthy a letter,

but believing you will pardon for the sake of our mutual affection for dear old Beta Theta Pi. Believe me ever, most sincerely,

Yours in — and —,

JOHN F. GREEN,

N. B.—If you think proper, after due inquiry concerning facts above narrated, send me a printed blank, such as I saw this morning, and I shall take great pleasure in filling it out.

*I know nothing of either.

EDWARD J. BROWN, GENERAL SECRETARY BETA THETA PI, TO
THE CHAPTERS OF BETA THETA PI.

HARRISON, OHIO, April 1, 1880.

Excelsior! Northward, southward, eastward and westward the course of Beta empire takes its way. The steady lighting and relighting of our altar fires in every section foreshadows our *national* destiny.

It affords me more than ordinary pleasure to announce to the fraternity that the movement for the establishment of the Beta Theta Pi at Brown University, Providence, R. I. has been happily consummated. The chapter was instituted by a commission duly constituted in that behalf on the evening of March 26th, 1880. A powerful chapter consisting of thirty-eight members in the undergraduate classes of this time honored University, already well organized and equipped, takes her place in our sisterhood of chapters, an event of no ordinary significance in the world of American College fraternities. This result is mainly due to the efforts of the efficient and tireless Chief Assistant Secretary of District II, William Raimond Baird.

For the present the new chapter will bear the provisional names of the "Brown University" chapter. Her Corresponding Secretary is John T. Blodgett, Providence, R. I., Corersponding Secretaries, you know your duty. Promptly perform it.

EDWARD J. BROWN, GENERAL SECRETARY BETA THETA PI, TO
ALPHA DELTA CHAPTER, AT WESTMINSTER.

HARRISON, OHIO, April 3, 1880.

By order of the Board of Directors of the Beta Theta Pi

the enclosed petition from the University of Pennsylvania is hereby submitted for the consideration of the chapters. The character of the petitioners is vouched for by Brothers J. T. Noble and A. M. Acheson of Gamma chapter, and the establishment of the proposed chapter is officially and cordially recommended by Alpha Sigma, Beta Gamma and Beta Epsilon chapters, the three chapters nearest the University of Pennsylvania. The present is a propitious time for establishing this chapter as there are eight or more Betas now in the University who will give the enterprise their cooperation and support.

Please bring this matter before your chapter as soon as practicable and report the vote thereupon to me without delay.

WILLIAM R. BAIRD, STEVENS, TO THE GENERAL SECRETARY AND
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF BETA THETA PI.

October 22, 1880.

We have paid a personal visit to the applicants for a chapter of Beta Theta Pi at Madison University and would state that their standing and character is such as to preeminently fit them to organize and to continue the work of a Beta chapter. We, therefore, urge upon the fraternity an early and favorable consideration of their petition.

Signed WILLIAM R. BAIRD of Sigma.

ARTHUR H. FLACK of Upsilon.

But we cannot in justice to either the fraternity or the applicants, let this petition go before our chapters without a more detailed statement of our reasons for urging them to vote favorably upon this petition.

A word about the college: Madison University is the oldest Baptist college in the state of New York, having been founded previous to 1825. Its location in the geographical centre of the state, has made it prominent and it successfully contests with Hamilton the honor of training a large proportion of the orators of America. It is the parent of the University of Rochester and has sent out hundreds of Baptist clergymen. Its students average one hundred in number yearly and it is financially the strongest college in New York if not in the middle states. It has an available endowment of over \$500,000, every cent of which is productive and has not been in debt for sixteen years. Its course

of study is the same as that in the best New England College and its standard of scholarship is unusually high. The University is intimately connected with the Colgate Academy, its preparatory school, and with the Madison Theological Seminary, thus insuring a continual supply of students and the presence in the college town of many of the young and talented graduates. Both facts conducive to the well being of a chapter.

As to the petitioners themselves, we can only say that so far as we could see and learn (and we viewed the matter from an entirely unprejudiced standpoint) they contain in their ranks, the brains and the talent of the University and in tone, culture and appearance are certainly superior to their rivals. It is a matter of record that of the many prizes given at Madison the petitioners have carried off a large majority, and they seemed to us not only scholars but *gentlemen*, in every sense and entirely worthy to become Betas. The petitioners are the lineal descendants of an old literary society termed the Adelpia whose name they still bear. Since 1872 this organization has been a *local secret fraternity*, so that they are perfectly conversant with the ways and means of managing a chapter. They have been successful as a local society and would undoubtedly be more so as a Beta chapter.

There are in the University two rivals to the Adelpia, *vis.*: Delta Kappa Epsilon, whose Mu chapter was placed here in 1855, and Delta Upsilon (anti-secret) who have been here since 1868. There is also a chapter of the Honorary Society of Phi Beta Kappa and one of the Sophomore Club of Theta Nu Epsilon.

We have shown in a few words what the University and Chapter are, let us say this. The establishment of this chapter will give us a well organized, strong body of *men*, enthusiastic and workers, so situated geographically as to materially aid us in our work of extension in the East and to give us strength where we are weakest. We make no idle boast when we say that this new chapter will give us two new and strong sisters before a year is passed. Be prompt in voting, if in doubt ask us questions or write direct to their secretary. (E. D. W. Pettys, Hamilton, N. Y.) But do not delay, there are urgent local reasons for the immediate consideration of this petition. The jealousy of rivals makes us ask you to keep secret this proposition until the vote is

settled definitely. The petitioners will send to each chapter a catalogue with the names of their men marked. Do not let us slip this opportunity!

W. S. HAMMOND, INDIANA ASBURY, TO EMIR C. SCOTT, WESTMINSTER.

GREENCASTLE, November 21, 1880.

As this is Sunday, and an exceedingly cold one, I thought I would write a few lines to your chapter, as we have not heard from you for some time, and find out how you are prospering. We are in a splendid condition and are doing good work in the class room and in society. We have initiated five new men this year, making our number in the chapter 20 men. We have I think as many men as we want and will spend our time in cultivating these lofty principles which Beta Theta Pi sets forth in making the perfect man. I think the outlook of Beta Theta Pi is growing brighter every day, and her list of the honored members becoming more extended every day. We had three Alumni of our chapter elected to office in the last campaign, namely Governor Porter, Col. C. C. Matson to Congress from the fifth District and Mark L. De Motte to Congress from fourth District and R. B. F. Pierce from the seventh District.

I suppose that clause in the constitution prohibiting going into combination does not affect your chapter as you have no rivals.

I am trying to get up a collection of pictures of at least one member of each chapter and would be pleased if you would make me a present of a phiz of yourself or any member of your chapter.

LEXINGTON, VA., November 20, 1880.

J. M. PATTON, VIRGINIA MILITARY TO MANLY B. CURRY

Placed in the position that I am, it is not proper for me to aid in the organization or reorganization of secret societies at this institution, since their continuance here is in violation of the regulations. But I do not put this as an excuse, for it has not been looked at in this light heretofore and there

have been no steps taken to put them down, although they are against the rules of the school. I have conferred with the three members of this chapter and they are unanimous in the opinion that Betadom will not be benefited in the least by retaining the charter, and have authorized me to ask that the charter be removed. I understand perfectly the circumstances, as I had to contend with them last year. I stated in my letter to Baird, and will reiterate them here: When I entered here in '76 our chapter was in a prosperous condition and the number of the corps was about 220. I am sure we had the lead then. The other fraternities were conscious of our supremacy and were determined to resort to some means of checking our progress. We contended successfully with them for three years, though successive failures discouraged us somewhat. The numbers of the corps have diminished to one-half what they were then, so that our field of work has materially been altered. The result of these and many other reasons was that the "barbarians," Kappa Alpha especially, began the "grabbing" system, i. e., no sooner does a man enlist than he is immediately button-holed by the grabbers. A green "rat," or freshman, is flattered by these attentions and at once gives his consent to join. Well, before he hears their constitution or takes the oath their badge is put upon him, as a sign to all the other fraternities to keep away. We have generally kept our eyes open, and invariably kept away, until we have sufficient reasons to believe that the man we are looking after is worthy to be a member of our order and whose disposition is congenial to ours. The consequence of this has been that many of the fraternities as well as new-comers have been badly bitten, and I am sure regret exceedingly their haste. We, of course, have been left in the lurch as far as numbers are concerned, and things have come to such a pass that we are not even given the opportunity of studying a man before he is "taken in" (in both senses of the word) by others. Another consideration is that the men seem to become of less worth as each fourth class enters year by year, and so on. I might cite numerous reasons which would be opposed to our renewing the work. The same may be said of Rho. W. and L. College, though for many reasons they are better able to continue their chapter than we are to carry on ours. The interest in Beta Theta Pi has been lagging for some time, until now the chapter

is virtually dead—only one to return next session, and no hopes of increasing the number. This is the state of things and you can see how utterly hopeless we must be. If the charter is removed, I think it due to the chapter that the circumstances attending its removal should be announced at the same time, so that all may know it has been our unceasing effort to further the interests of our fraternity and to convert others to our enlightning truths, but that we were frustrated. Pardon my long silence, but I have been deliberating and consulting as to the proper course to pursue, and I have deliberately arrived at the conclusion as stated above.

CHARLES H. CAREY, DENISON, TO THE CHAPTERS OF BETA THETA
PI.

December 1, 1880.

In accordance with Section 17 of the Secretary's Code adopted by the Honorable, the forty-first Convention of Beta Theta Pi, assembled at Baltimore in August, 1880; the Alpha Eta Chapter begs leave to submit the following:

The membership of the Chapter is forty-two of whom six are active members. Of the latter, three belong to the class 1881, one 1882, two 1884. The Chapter is in excellent condition, is thoroughly harmonious, and is enthusiastic for the welfare of our beloved order. Some radical reforms were inaugurated at the beginning of the current year. New by-laws were adopted, providing for regular bi-weekly meetings, with literary exercises. An attempt was made, with but partial success, to revive the Greek spirit of the Chapter's alumni, and especially to induce them to begin an active correspondence with the Chapter.

The prospects of the Chapter are good, it still adheres to its old maxim "Quality, not Quantity," in its choice of new members. But one rival contests the field—the Mu chapter of the Sigma Chi having at present five active members, one of whom is of the class 1882, two 1883, one 1884 and one preparatory. Alpha Eta Chapter, for many years *sub rosa*, now wears "the wreath, the stars, the diamond bright," openly holding aloft before the world the standard of Beta Theta Pi; and appears despite rules hostile to Secret Societies enacted by the trustees of the University several years since which are practically a dead letter.

Alpha Eta desires to correspond with every chapter in the Beta world, and hopes that everyone which does not already number Alpha Eta as one of its correspondents, will consider this a cordial invitation to write to her at once.

CHARLES J. SEAMAN, DENISON, TO JAMES E. WILLIAMSON,
WABASH.

CLEVELAND, O., December 2, 1880.

Package of circulars received, many thanks. Please write John A. Finch, Indianapolis for data of Hon. T. C. Harrison. Frank F. O'Ferrall ought to be made to answer a letter or be *dropped*. He is too recent a graduate to shirk the matter this way. Medical College at Phila. 76-8 is very vague, there being so many Medical Colleges in Phila. Punch *him* up. Also if Albert B. Clark is at Hot Springs, he ought to answer circular in full; ditto Baskin E. Rhoads, do. Joseph F. Tuttle, do. E. E. Bassett. If Potter Coultrin is not a Beta, how came he in all the old records? Ask Professor *Campbell*.

I am tired of writing to Francis Monfort. You would better send him a lively blast to either show up or have his name dropped. Will send you corrected list soon. I don't let up for a minute, but pursue the plan of hearing from *every living Alumnus himself*. Hope to go to press in a month or six weeks. Can't tell price to active members until I have made final estimate. Order for diamond brooch pin received. I would suggest this change, take a garnet border, diamond corner pin at \$27.50 or add from \$3—\$7 extra for an extra fine diamond centre. The \$27.50 calls for genuine diamond centre but by adding *extra* to the price of the diamond. Wilson will have a *stunning* pin. The contrast of the garnets with the diamond at the Corners (8 diamonds) is such as to show off the border diamonds to good advantage, those who have seen both styles invariably prefer the one I suggest. If desired I will send this style of pin, omitting the engraved name and if it is satisfactory it can be returned. I would send both styles but only have the one on hand, just completed to send to Madison as a sample. On account of press of Holiday work, it would take a couple of weeks to get the other style out. Let me know at once whether you want me to send this

pin and what extra, if any, shall go to procuring a finer diamond for the centre.

EDWARD H. HARRISON, DICKINSON, TO THE WESTMINSTER
CHAPTER.

CARLISLE, PA., Dec., 4, 1880.

Alpha Sigma sends you greeting. Never has she been in a more prosperous condition or felt more like greeting her sister chapters. We lead two classes and have our men near the head in the other two. While cliquing is contrary to one of our bottom principles, we have nearly all the offices in the literary society. We have ten members and nine of them are fine men. We unquestionably lead here both as a chapter and fraternity. When we remember that at one time our chapter was irretrievably broken up, so that the other fraternities wrote to their journals that "Beta Theta Pi had busted" and that last year we started in with but three men, we have reason to rejoice as we do. Careful in picking our men we have been singularly fortunate. With one exception we have been glad that men we lost were lost. The fraternity which pretends to rival us here, has asked us "to live and let live." It delights us to hear that the other chapters are apparently doing as well as we.

MELLEN A. PINGREE, BOSTON, TO THE CHAPTERS OF BETA THETA
PI.

BOSTON, December, 1880.

In accordance with Section 17 of the Secretary's Code, we present the following report:

At present we number fifteen men, of whom two have been initiated this year. In spite of many difficulties we are in a prosperous condition.

To our brethren throughout the country we extend our heartiest greeting. We wish them the greatest measure of success. Our fraternity is growing stronger every day and we believe in its future.

To our alumni with many thanks for their aid and counsel in the past we urge them not to lose their interest in the chapter

or fraternity. Our paper especially needs their assistance. It should not be allowed to die.

THE FIRST PRINTED SEMI-ANNUAL

BETA THETA PI.
SIGMA CHAPTER.
STEVEN'S INSTITUTE.

Dear Brother:

HOBOKEN, N. J., Dec., 10th, 1880.

It is our pleasant duty, in accordance with the laws of the fraternity and our own chapter regulations, to inform you at this season of the conditions and prospects of our chapter.

We are most happy to say that, as in the past, our chapter is the leading one at Stevens. During the year ending in June our numbers were smaller than usual, but we lost no men by graduation and at the beginning of the fall term Brother Hernz returned to his place at the Institute. Bro. Jobbins is not in attendance this year but, in addition to the active members, we have Bros. Reisenberger, Sorge and Everhart with us as they are officially connected with the Institute. The chapter has made a successful campaign and our initiates at our meeting for that purpose in January will be

'81 William T. Magruder, Peekskill, N. Y.

'84 William S. Dilworth, Hoboken, N. J.

'84 Richard Le Fearn, Mobile, Ala.

'84 Joseph C. Minton, Chatham, N. J.

The contest for men is not quite over and there may be additions made to this list later in the college year.

For some time past the chapter has been without rooms but have now secured them at No. 9 Bank Building on Newark St. As we are now furnishing them we will be pleased to receive any donations from you and you will have the assurance of any such being expended most judiciously.

You will see by the heading to this letter that our chapter name has been changed to Sigma. This was done at the conven-

tion held at Baltimore in August and we deem ourselves fortunate in securing one of the old Alpha Sigma Chi letters.

The fraternity at large is undeniably prosperous. Alpha Sigma Chi has infused a new life and spirit into the Eastern wing and has received in return added dignity and strength. We do not regret the change and have easily transferred our allegiance and regard. Since September last, chapters have been established or revived as follows:

Eta—Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

Kappa—Brown University, Providence, R. I.

Mu—Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tenn.

Phi—University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.

Alpha Beta—University of Iowa, Iowa City, Ia.

The chapters at Howard College, Ala., and Washington and Lee University, Va., have been withdrawn. The next convention will be held at Chicago the last Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of August next. We invite you earnestly to attend.

We would call your attention to many interesting features of the present work in the fraternity but more especially to our monthly journal *The Beta Theta Pi*. It is ably edited and well managed and contains so much of interest to every Beta that we can truly call it invaluable. The subscription price is but one dollar per annum and the Chapter Secretary will take pleasure in receiving subscriptions or forwarding to you sample copies.

Our rivals, or rather neighbors, at the Institute are still Theta Xi and Delta Tau Delta, the former has this fall secured some very nice material but the fast element in their chapter has been by no means eliminated and they suffer in reputation in consequence. The Deltas for some months past have been very weak but are now doing better and mainly through the efforts of Denton '75 and Bruck '78 are again assuming airs of importance.

In the Institute itself, many important changes have been made. A preliminary term of one month has been added to all but the freshman year, this time is devoted to shop work. The much abused gymnasium is now being turned into a third machine shop and the authorities are to build a gymnasium distinct from the Institute building. The course has been discontinued and nothing yet has taken its place.

We hope you will write us on receipt of this and our secre-

tary is both willing and able to answer all questions. We promise you a warm welcome whenever you may visit us, and we shall be glad to see you at any time.

in———Kai———

JAMES BEATTY, JR.,
284 Washington St., Hoboken, N. J.,
(Corresponding Sect'y.)

Active Members.

- '81 George Hill, B. S. (Rutgers '9) New Brunswick, N. J.
- '81 Frank Lederle, Detroit, Mich.
- '81 Henry C. White, Port Chester, N. Y.
- '82 Pierce Butler, Louisville, Ky.
- '82 Fred W. Cooke, Paterson, N. J.
- '83 Cornell Dunlap, Jersey City, N. J.
- '83 Louis St M. Hernz, New York, N. Y.
- '83 Franklin K. Irwin, Mobile, Ala.
- '84 James Beatty, Jr., Baltimore, Md.

WILLIAM S. HAMMOND, INDIANA ASBURY UNIVERSITY, TO EMIR
C. SCOTT, WESTMINSTER.

GREENCASTLE, IND., January 20th, 1881.

I received your letter some days since and as I have all my lessons for tomorrow, I thought I would answer some of the letters I have received this week. I received a letter from our chapter at Washington, Pa., and they are just cussing on account of that clause prohibiting the initiations of Preparatories, but if they didn't pay any more attention to it than we do, it wouldn't worry them much.

Since I last wrote we have initiated a man. Although we could not procure our regalia in time to carry out the new ritual; nevertheless we went through with our old initiation and made a perfect success and ended up by having an oyster supper which is getting to be too common with our chapter.

Some of the boys are talking about making a break and undertaking the endless labor of getting up a chapter house fund. I think it is a good scheme but a very hard undertaking to raise \$5,000.

In the Asbury Cadet Corps the promotions of this year were

made yesterday and we received all the captaincies which are three in number. One 1st Lieutenant. Color Sergeants and one 1st Corporal. We have now the best offices in the Battalion and intend to run it. I haven't received Moorhead's phiz yet and don't want you to fail to send it.

I am not so much of a ladies' man as you think me to be, although I have run as many as three girls at one time, but have sworn off never to go again.

I received a letter today from our chapter at Richmond, Va., and they say they are doing well and have ten enthusiastic Betas in their chapter.

I hoped to be able to attend our next Convention, but if I am successful in receiving my navy appointment, I don't suppose I can go, but I can assure you that our delegate will vote to repeal both those clauses in regard to preparatories and "combinations."

How is our chapter at Mt. Pleasant getting along. I have written to that chapter several times and can never receive any reply. I suppose you have received our chapter letter, how does it strike you? Have you procured your regalia for the new ritual yet, if so where and how much did it cost you? We do not want to pay over \$50 for ours.

PETITION FOR A CHAPTER AT UNION COLLEGE.

TO THE HONORABLE CONVENTION OF THE BETA THETA PI.:

We, the undersigned, students in good standing of Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., do hereby make application for Charter to establish a Chapter of the BETA THETA PI FRATERNITY at Union College.

We are fully aware of the privileges we will enjoy, and of the responsibilities that will rest upon us if this Charter be granted; and, having this knowledge, promise to do our utmost to advance the interests and uphold the honor of the BETA THETA PI.

(Signed) NAME	AGE	RESIDENCE	CLASS
James R. Gibson,	24	Delhi, N. Y.,	'81
John J. Henning,	24	North Argyle, N. Y.,	'81
John W. Adams,	20	Belmond, Ia.,	'83
Fred D. Hall,	18	Antwerp, N. Y.,	'84
Herbert C. Hinds,	22	Salem, N. Y.,	'82

Statement of condition of Union College.

No. of Professors 31; *viz.*: Chairs of Moral Philosophy, Natural Philosophy, Agriculture and Botany, Greek Language and Literature, Modern Language and Literature and Analytical Chemistry, Logic and Rhetoric, Civil Engineering, Natural History, Latin, Language and Literature, Mental Philosophy and Hebrew, Mathematics and many others.

No. of Students, 464 in University, 220 in Classic and Scientific Departments.

Fraternities Kappa Alpha, Sigma Phi, Alpha Delta Phi, Delta Phi, Psi Upsilon, Delta Upsilon, Chi Psi.

Endowment rather more than \$1,000,000.

Condition and prospects of College. Condition of College good and prospects flattering and improving.

We heartily indorse the above application, knowing the statements made therein to be true, and believing it will be to the advantage of the Fraternity to grant it.

JAMES T. BROWN of Cornell Chapter.

JOHN L. N. HUNT of Bethany Chapter.

WM. B. LINDSAY of Boston Chapter.

WALTER COOK, MADISON UNIVERSITY, TO WILLIAM R. BAIRD,
CHIEF OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT.

HAMILTON, N. Y., Jan. 29, 1881.

The application of a number of gentlemen at Union College for a charter from our fraternity is a cause of rejoicing to each member of the new chapter Beta Theta and it is with pleasure that I send to you our unanimous and hearty vote recommending the applicants. The discussion of the petition brought out important reasons why the immediate establishment of a Union Chapter would be of material benefit to the fraternity at large and especially to the Eastern branch.

The reputation of Union College is widespread. In New York state it stands among the strongest and it is fast regaining its *ante bellum* renown and prosperity which will render it without a peer. The most successful college fraternities in the East, Alpha Delta Phi, Psi Upsilon and Delta Kappa Epsilon who as rivals are worthy of the respect and metal of Beta Theta Pi, have not hesitated to make the attempt to establish chapters at Union.

The first two now count as nearly their best chapters at that college and the last is at present making strenuous efforts to procure a chapter there. It speaks well for the good judgment of the applicants for a charter from Beta Theta Pi that although the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity had opened negotiations with them and through them had attempted to gain entrance to Union College, the applicants upon a close inspection of Delta Kappa Epsilon's and various other college fraternities, becoming dissatisfied with Delta Kappa Epsilon's methods and withdrew from their relations with Delta Kappa Epsilon and chose Beta Theta Pi as a desirable fraternal home. Moreover, some of our men are personally acquainted with the applicants and know them to be men of the best quality and calculated to be an honor to Beta Theta Pi. They are men of stamina and energy, well able to cope successfully with existing Union organizations and intellectually and financially to place a new chapter on a permanent basis. They are men of good scholarship of good social standing and have had invitations to unite with Alpha Delta Phi, Psi Upsilon and other Union College chapters. The establishment of Beta Theta Pi at Union College would greatly increase our power in the East and prove of incalculable value to the chapters in New York state. If there is one thing which we, of New York are obliged to fight it is the scarcity of chapters in this state and in the East and if we wish rightly to merit the name of National we must strengthen these branches of our already strong fraternity. Therefore we do, not only recommend but earnestly request our brothers of Beta Theta Pi, East, South and West to give the application from Union College an immediate and favorable consideration.

JACOB BRILLES, WOOSTER, TO TAU CHAPTER, WABASH.

WOOSTER, O., January 31, 1881.

It is with deep regret that we write you the news of a severe blow to Alpha Lambda in the complete destruction of our chapter Hall and contents by fire. On the night of the 27th, a fire broke out in the public portion of the city, and spreading rapidly, the building in which we had our Hall was completely consumed and with it all our furniture and equipments, leaving nothing as relics

even except the Constitution, ritual and records of the Chapter.

We prided ourselves on having the most comfortable fraternity hall in the city but now Alpha Lambda is left homeless. We appeal to your generosity in aiding us to fit up a new hall. This is a critical time in the history of Alpha Lambda for if the chapter seems to be crippled by the fire and thus to lose any of its former prestige, the chapters of rival fraternities will use our misfortune as a handle to drive out Beta Theta Pi from Wooster, which they would only be too glad to do. This would of course be a severe blow not only to Alpha Lambda but the fraternity at large. For a flourishing chapter to die out or lose its power, influence and prestige is crippling to the interests and influence of every chapter in the fraternity and to the fraternity at large. Illustrations of this or reports of chapters having deteriorated and the injurious influence of such reports wherever circulated will occur to every Beta. We are only eleven in number this year and have but lately finished paying for our Catalogue plate, which cost us \$125.00, but we feel that the chapter must go on with the same vigor and loyal strength as before and that the influence of Father Wooglin and Beta Theta Pi in Wooster must not be destroyed nor lessened one iota. To this end we are exerting every effort and with this important crisis confronting us, we feel that we are justified in presenting the matter to our sister chapters and asking their generous co-operation in attaining this end.

WILLIAM R. BAIRD, STEVENS, TO THE CHAPTERS.

February 1, 1881.

In connection with the enclosed remarks in regard to the petition from Union College it may not be inappropriate to say something in regard to the extension policy the fraternity is pursuing in the Eastern States. It is evident to all that our work of extension in the East is not yet finished. Gamma is the only chapter North of Virginia and East of Ohio more than 10 years old and while we are remarkably strong for our age yet we must acknowledge that in the public estimation we do not yet rank in this section on a par with some of our rivals. The public judge a fraternity by the names of the colleges in which it has chapters and by its representative men. If the latter were the sole criterion

Beta Theta Pi would outrank them all, but it is not and we must do two things, seek to enter the colleges whose name will give us reputation and at the same time build up strong chapters, small in numbers and free from the intense "literary society" element that marks our strongest competitors. Our policy may be formulated then by the statement that we seek to enter the Eastern Colleges whenever there is a good opening, an assurance of permanence in the supply of students, an outside reputation, and the character of the men we admit is fully up to our standard.

Disabuse your minds brothers of the idea that we are striving to emulate Alpha Delta Phi, Psi Upsilon, etc., on their own ground and in *their own way*. We are not, we make the chapters Beta chapters out and out and allowing for differences of situation we can proudly say that our Eastern chapters are fully the peers of their older sisters. We have in pursuance of our plan, so far sought to receive as chapters the members of local organizations and in this we have succeeded remarkably well, the men are experienced and soon perceive the difference between close fraternal bond and the weak *esprit du corps* of our rivals.

We do not seek to extend at the expense or sacrifice of any of our cherished ideas, we would not lose an iota of our oldtime spirit, hence if a chapter is a little bit too large we see that it is made smaller as soon as possible. We make the most thorough search into the resources and character of every college we investigate and by special facilities can acquire an unrivalled knowledge of fraternity life in these colleges. We appeal to the fraternity to back us up in our work and will be only too glad to receive hints and suggestions.

We wish to say a final word in regard to the Madison University chapter, its apparently large size was due to the fact that in the catalogues sent out the names of members of the local society were marked in the catalogue of both the Theological seminary and The Colgate Academy. The chapter is neither large nor unwieldy.

WILLIAM R. BAIRD, AS CHIEF OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT, TO THE
CHAPTERS.

NEW YORK, N. Y., February 1, 1881.

Accompanying this is a petition for a chapter of Beta Theta

Pi from certain students of Union College, Schenectady, New York. We deem a word of explanation necessary and due to the chapters for the fact that we recommend and urge its favorable consideration upon the chapters and also for the fact that we present the petition without waiting for the session of our annual convention.

In the first place we would like to say a few words about Union College. An impression has in some way been produced among several colleges that Union is on the decline and has lost all her power and influence.

We freely admit that Union College has not now the number of students that it had 40 years ago when it and Madison University were the only colleges in New York State outside New York City and that the retirement of Dr. Nott injured it somewhat and that during the years 1861-2-3-4-5-6 it shared the depression incident to the enlistment of its students in the Northern and Southern armies. All these facts are true but since 1867 it has been steadily regaining lost ground, has been increasing its endowment fund, enlarging its library, widening its area of supply and adding new departments and facilities for instruction. Its progress has in a measure gone unnoted in the educational excitement induced by the establishment of so many new universities, and the facts are generally unknown to the college world.

It is our design to seize upon this opportunity and secure a flourishing chapter of Beta Theta Pi there before our rivals are aware of the new field. There are at Union 464 students of whom 153 are in the medical department and 80 in the law department. Eighteen states are represented in the classical department and are about equally divided between the North and South. There are 31 professors, the Endowment funds equals about one million of dollars and in December one gift alone amounted to \$50,000.00.

The fraternities now in Union are Kappa Alpha, Delta Phi, Sigma Phi, Psi Upsilon, Alpha Delta Phi and Delta Upsilon (anti-secret). Their chapters are all old; Alpha Delta Phi, the last one, having been founded in 1859, and all have been so stamped with the characteristics of their external reputations but none but Alpha Delta Phi has any social claims to pretension. The chapters are small, and not rich, only one has a chapter house

(Sigma Phi), and that is small. From the fact stated that all the chapters have fixed reputations many of the best men coming to Union do not join them, leaving just now a particularly advantageous opportunity for a good fraternity to enter there. The college authorities are friendly to the fraternities and hence the chapters will be in no danger of extinction from that source.

Another great advantage Beta Theta Pi would receive from having a chapter at Union is that our Cornell, Madison, St. Lawrence and University of Virginia chapters draw men from the same towns and cities as Union does, indeed some of the petitioners are well known to the men in these chapters, this fact would materially assist in maintaining the chapter prosperously.

Harry Flack of Upsilon is intimately connected with Claverack College (The son of the president and instructor in the college), this is the largest preparatory school in New York and were the chapter once established he could secure us usually four or five fine students each year who will have been brought up under Beta Theta Pi influences. In fact the Kenyon plan can be used to perfection. A Union chapter will also greatly help us in entering Amherst, Williams and other desirable Eastern colleges from its proximity and high character. It is situated on the great trunk line between the East and the West and is readily accessible from all points.

We desire to say also that we personally know the applicants having twice visited the college within the last two months for this very purpose, and we can most emphatically say that the applicants and those associated with them are the very pick of the college and the superiors not to say equals of any fraternity chapter there. These men have pledged to join them in the event of their obtaining a Beta Theta Pi charter eight others, the whole number constituting a large part of the membership of a local society of some two years standing. So the men are not ignorant of fraternity work and methods. It is desirable that the chapter should be established as soon as practicable in order that it may be in running order and have some experience before the close of the college year. They will send delegates to Chicago and be ready for the fall campaign full of enthusiasm and energy if allowed to start this term. We must earnestly urge the chapter to vote "Aye" on this proposition and to permit us to make one

more advance in the East. Questions of inquiries concerning the matter may be sent to me or to Brother H. C. Hinds, Union College, Schenectady, New York (Brother Hinds is a member of Beta Theta Chapter).

EDWARD J. BROWN, GENERAL SECRETARY, TO THE CHAPTERS.

HARRISON, OHIO, March 1, 1881.

Notice is hereby given to the chapters of the Beta Theta Pi that Alpha Theta chapter, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Virginia and Alpha Psi chapter, Butler University, Irvington, Indiana have voluntarily surrendered their charters to the Board of Directors of the Fraternity. The Board has received these charters and will report them to the forty-second General Convention for final action. Meanwhile the charters aforesaid will remain suspended, and the chapters will be dropped from our list of chapters subject to the decision of the next General Convention.

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE,

May 17, 1881.

Editor Beta Theta Pi:

DEAR BROTHER:—Through some misunderstanding the following resolutions, passed by Alpha Theta chapter, upon the surrender of her charter, have not appeared in the paper. By inserting them (if, at this late date you find sufficient space in your columns) you will greatly oblige.

Yours in Beta Theta Pi,

J. M. PATTON, JR.

WHEREAS, After mature consideration the present members of the Alpha Theta chapter of Beta Theta Pi are of the opinion that a surrender of the charter should be made; first, because the institution at which Alpha Theta is located is on the decline, and the numbers in attendance are not sufficient to maintain a carefully selected chapter; secondly, because, in order to secure members of any character, Alpha Theta would be forced to adopt the system of hasty initiation pursued by her rivals—pernicious in its effects and calculated to bring discredit upon the fraternity; thirdly, because all the causes in operation point to the impossibility of maintaining even a precarious existence for any length of

time, and by surrendering the charter at present the final disaster is anticipated by a few years at most, and a possible disgrace avoided; therefore,

Resolved, First, that, every means of maintaining an honorable chapter life having been exhausted, a voluntary surrender of the charter be made, subject to the sanction of the next convention.

Resolved, Second, that the exercise of all functions as an organized chapter be discontinued from the passage of these resolutions.

Resolved, Third, that a copy of these resolutions, together with the papers and archives of the chapter, be sent to the General Secretary, to be placed by him before the Executive Committee.

Resolved, Fourth, that notice of the chapter's resolutions be given to the fraternity through the columns of the fraternity paper.

R. A. PAINE,
A. T. PATTON,
O. M. RUTLEDGE.

June 1, 1881.

To the Honorable Convention of the Beta Theta Pi:

We, the undersigned, students in good standing of The University of Nebraska do hereby make application for Charter to establish a Chapter of the BETA THETA PI FRATERNITY at Lincoln, Nebraska.

We are fully aware of the privileges we will enjoy, and of the responsibilities that will rest upon us if this Charter be granted; and, having this knowledge, promise to do our utmost to advance the interests and uphold the honor of the BETA THETA PI.

(Signed)

Name	Age	Residence	Class
C. Clement Chase	21	Omaha,	Junior
Daniel H. Wheeler, Jr.,	20	Plattsmouth,	Junior
John P. Hartman,	17	Plattsmouth,	Freshman
Edmund M. Fairfield,	20	Lincoln,	Junior

Oct. 3, 1881.

The Forty-second Annual Convention adopted the following resolution: "RESOLVED, That the petition for a charter at the

University of Nebraska, which this convention has not been able to act upon by reason of imperfection of the papers, shall, when put in constitutional shape for action through the General Secretary, be immediately put to a vote of the chapters by the Board of Directors." In obedience to this resolution the petition is now submitted to the chapters.

That the Fraternity may have the information necessary for deciding upon the expediency of establishing the chapter proposed, the General Secretary herewith sends a compilation of facts regarding the condition and prospects of the University of Nebraska.

The chapters are requested to act upon the petition with the greatest rapidity that is consistent with a proper discussion of so important a subject.

JOHN S. GOODWIN, INDIANA ASBURY, CHIEF OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT, TO JAMES R. MOOREHEAD, WESTMINSTER.

BELOIT, KANSAS, Sept. 29, 1881.

Your favor of the 26th instant to hand and I am glad to hear from you. I have as yet had no information concerning the work of the third day of the convention. Will you have the kindness to tell me what disposition was made of my report as Historian and who was my successor. I have not received any notice from the General Secretary asking me to act as chief of the seventh District but your communication is just as welcome.

A Convention is a grand affair and I gave up my plans for attending it only when compelled to by press of business.

Now let me make some suggestions which you must take in good part and not feel offended. *In the first place, you must have a chapter room.* You cannot keep up the fraternity feeling and the "Esprit du Chapitre" (or words to that effect) while "houseless, homeless and (soon) alone" in the college world. If, as, you say, you cannot find a room wholly suited to your wants at present, do the next best thing. When old Delta lost her Chapter Hall by fire in '75 or '76, we met in a photographer's gallery for several weeks, and then got a little 12 x 16 room which we kept until we got a better one. Go to the Masons, or Odd Fellows, or Knights of Pythias, or any of the secret societies which have halls in Fulton, explain the situation to them and ask permission to meet in

their hall for a few weeks or months and help them pay the rent. If you can't do that, some lawyer who has suitable rooms, may allow you to meet once a week in his rooms. *Find some place*, if but a basement, and meet *regularly once a week*. *Have a home* for the chapter. Don't give up because you *can't* get the *best* just now. The successful man and the successful chapter is the one that can adapt itself to the circumstances surrounding it and make even the most unfavorable yield benefit and profit. Appoint a standing committee of three *energetic* members on "hall" and make them report at every meeting. Keep them stirred up and you will soon find or *make* an opening. I can appreciate your situation for I have one of the socks yet that I wore out tramping the streets and climbing stairs in search of a hall. If at present, you can't find a hall suitable for the chapter take one unsuitable but whatever you do *have a Home for Alpha Delta Chapter of Beta Theta Pi*.

Second. Take the Beta Theta Pi paper. It is only one dollar a year and when you have it *keep it*. I have nearly all of Volume I, all but number 6 of Volume II and *all* of Volumes III, IV, V, VI, VII and VIII and have had Volumes II, III, IV, and V, bound together and Volumes VII and VIII bound together in two uniform Volumes, one-half morocco with cloth sides and they make elegant books and I value them highly. Every chapter ought to have a set. The chapter ought to appoint a committee of, say, two, to solicit subscribers and to see that every man who could afford a dollar, became a subscriber.

Insist on your alumni taking it. It will keep up the old chapter love and fraternal feeling, and while you are about it, write to the paper and give an account of yourself and the university and its standing. Let all the boys get acquainted with Alpha Delta and let us show them that the old seventh District is right up to the handle and still in the ring. You have caught a glimpse of the general fraternal spirit and working. Don't fall back, *but go ahead*. You've the material to make a success. Show the "Effete East" that the "Young West" is up in arms and that something good can come out of Missouri in spite of train robberies, cyclones and the James Brothers.

Third. Meet regularly, once a week. Let nothing interfere with this. Take the most convenient night and let everybody

know that that night is devoted to old Wooglin and the Beta Boys are "not at home" to any outside calls. We found Saturday night our best time. We prepared our lessons in the day time for Monday and then had no cares or troubles but met, a band of brothers, around Wooglin's altar and strengthened the ties that bound us. Don't have too much literary work in the meeting, but have each brother get up and make in turn an extempore speech or talk, telling what they have done through the week, making suggestions, criticisms and offering anything for the benefit of the chapter or order.

Make them all speak, if only "I love you all" and you will soon get a genuine Beta feeling in the meetings which will make you long for a chapter meeting.

But business is commencing and I am interrupted so often that I must close. Please drop me a card by return mail answering my first queries.

CHARLES H. CAREY, DENISON, TO C. S. COLER, OHIO, (BETA CHAPTER.)

CINCINNATI, OHIO, October 19th, 1881.

Your letter of the 15th is at hand and I am highly pleased with its tone, though you still leave me in the dark as to why you neglect to write to the chapters in response to the letters they addressed to you. I highly approve of the determination of the chapter to take in good men or none and for my part I would rather see any chapter in the Fraternity die than depart from the rule. But while it is true that you are few in number and have no immediate prospect of growing, it should not prevent the Beta Chapter from taking active interest in Fraternity matters and being as live and vigorous a chapter as we have in our roll. I know from my own experience while at college that where two or three live Betas are, a chapter of size and worth many soon grow. I could cite numerous examples in Fraternity history of chapters which were quite as small as yours now is, which with energy and determination were built up in a few months and now stand living witnesses of the pluck of the one or two men to whose efforts this present prosperity is due. Not that I wish to urge you to try to take in new men if you think

the right sort of material is not at hand, but that I want to persuade the two or three who still remain of the old Beta Chapter that they ought to be more alive to general Fraternity matters than now seems to be the case. Pardon my plainness, but the fact is that for some time the Beta Chapter has been practically dead and it has been urged from many quarters that her charter should be withdrawn. For my own part I would be strongly averse to so doing if there be any reasonable prospect of the chapter's waking up to a sense of her duties. Now, Brother Coler, this is what I wish to suggest: Let the three of you who are still at Ohio University meet regularly and frequently for the purpose of talking over Fraternity matters, divide up the duty of corresponding with your Alumni and the other chapters of the Fraternity so that every one will have a number of correspondents to whom he will write frequently; let the letters be read at the chapter meetings; write often to the Fraternity journal and let every man read and study it every month; try to build up some of the old Beta enthusiasm in the boys so that when a man possibly eligible to the chapter enters the college, they will leave no stone unturned until they have tested him thoroughly and if found of the right material, taken him in out of the cold and away from the Delta Tau's and Phi Delta's both. In other words make the Beta chapter once more a chapter of which the Fraternity may be proud. Even if you do not take in another man until you are all gone and the chapter is dead you can at least make a live chapter while you are still at college.

You must excuse the apparent officiousness of this letter, but if you will look at the matter as I do you will see that something must be done for Beta or it will be better that Beta die. I would not make use of my official position to interfere in your chapter business but that I consider it absolutely necessary in view of the complaints and slighting remarks I hear from so many directions.

HOWARD S. STETLER, PENNSYLVANIA, TO C. S. COLER, OHIO.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., October 22, 1881.

This has been almost my first in this line since the opening of the new term of the University of Pennsylvania, and it is

owing to a great amount of other work that I have been compelled to postpone writing to our sister chapters. College opened very nicely in our favor; that is, it presented a first-class crowd of barbarians from which to pick our men.

The course in the Towne Scientific School has been extended to five years, so if you should notice any men on our roll marked '86 you will know that they are "ye verdant Freshmen" in the Scientific Department.

Phi still flourishes and has taken in so far Henry L. Patterson and Chas. R. Dundore, both of '86. Besides these we have in tow several men from '85 and '86 and one man from the Law Dept. and we are likely to get a good many more before we stop.

When we first established our rivals were dreadfully opposed to us (and in fact, still are) because they know the consequence of such a powerful fraternity, as ours is, getting into power in college. But, we are happy to say that our dark days are past; that the condition of Phi is better now than ever before and that our prospects grow brighter and brighter every day. Our rivals are Z Ψ, Δ Ψ, Φ K Ψ, Φ K Σ, Α T Ω and Φ T Α (a local fraternity formerly a chapter of Δ B Φ). We can safely say we are equal to, if not better than our most powerful rival.

Let us hear from you soon; and, tell us your prospects. Give us any news of your college and other fraternities. By the way, we did not receive your last semi-annual report—should be pleased to have it.

JACOB BRILLES, WOOSTER, TO HENRY H. HUMPHREY, OHIO.

WOOSTER, OHIO, October 31, 1881.

Your kind and very interesting letter of October 18, reached me in due time and it pleased us very much to hear from you. So long a time elapsed between my writing and yours that I had almost concluded that you were too busy to answer. I am very sorry that you have such poor material at your college to select new men and of course you are not to blame for not having a *large* chapter when material is so scarce.

If it were not for the large number of new men who come here every year, I am afraid we would have a serious time obtaining recruits. But out of 125 new men who come here every

year we have no difficulty in selecting a few. What are the names of your men and their classes?

Our rivals are the dirtiest on God's green earth. Nothing is too mean for them to say or do and the worst that any one could say about them would be but a eulogy. Lying, misrepresentation, and blackguarding are the main means of their getting ahead of us whenever they do get ahead. I have often thought of doing to them even as they do to us but a second sober thought always preferred the golden rule. The only thing we do is to "pass them by as the idle wind which we respect not" and hope that their meanness may some day break their necks.

What do you think of a state reunion? Suppose all the chapters of Ohio would get together and have such a reunion wouldn't it be grand? What do the boys of Beta think of it?

I am in favor of it and several other chapters of District VI have expressed themselves as well pleased with the project. It need not cost much and would a thousand times repay the amount expended in the huge amount of fun it would produce.

FRANCIS W. SHEPARDSON, DENISON, TO C. S. COLER, OHIO.

GRANVILLE, OHIO, November 21, 1881.

I do not understand your silence towards Alpha Eta. Brother Good of Beta Alpha says you write to him and so I take this letter as an invitation to you to write to me and to build up a strong friendly feeling between Beta and Alpha Eta. I see no reason why anything but the best relations should exist between our chapters. Thanksgiving approaches and we are in hopes some of Beta Alpha will come down for a day or so. The Beta Alpha boys are pretty nice. There is talk of a chapter at the State University, but I do not believe we want one there just at present, do you? How many have you initiated this year and how many are there of you? We are six, one initiate. There is nothing like a small chapter for genuine worth and usefulness in the Beta kingdom.

It rained here for thirty-six hours this week and the water played the dickens with bridges, railroads, etc. Have any new buildings gone up at Athens this year? I mean college buildings. How does it happen that the state has two institutions instead of

one State University? I should think they would be consolidated. I do not think I can write a long letter this time. Perhaps my letter isn't welcome to you and the sooner I finish this the better, perhaps.

WILL C. SHEPPARD, DENISON, TO JAMES R. MOOREHEAD, WESTMINSTER.

GRANVILLE, O., December 4, 1881.

Alpha Eta sends greeting and best wishes to Alpha Delta. Our Corresponding Secretary thinks that he has perhaps "bitten off more than he can chew" in the way of correspondence, so upon me devolves the pleasant duty of exchanging ideas with you. Alpha Eta is in a healthy condition as you will see by our circular letter which will soon be out. Though we number but six active Greeks yet we are true to the core. Before the Christmas recess we intend to initiate one of our "barbs" Garrett Ellison '85. He is a first rate fellow and we will improve him greatly when once he is within the mystic circle.

We have five other fine "barbs," boys who lead their classes and are full of that companionable spirit which makes true Greeks. Our pledged men are two in '86 and three in '87. We do not initiate "barbs" until they enter the Freshman year, what is your custom?

Thanksgiving was a "red letter day" for us. We went serenading Wednesday evening and at the only private residence we serenaded "the Beta girls so true" invited us in and entertained us in their charming way and with oysters. On Thanksgiving Day Brother Hervey at his hospitable home near the village, set a fat "pup" before us. Simple justice was done to the "canine" and after about an hour's dining, satisfaction reigned supreme, except in the heart, or rather stomach of one "barb" who feelingly remarked: "I wish I had on a larger suit of clothes." For the remainder of the afternoon we sang old Wooglin's praise and as evening fell took our way to the town.

In the evening we attended a social or reception given by the young ladies of the Lower Seminary. When we gathered in the sacred precincts that night, we smiled around and every Beta's heart was light.

Our Literary Societies give extra entertainments at this time of the year. In the Franklin Society I attempted to uphold the "Pink and Blue" by delivering an Oration entitled, The New Haven Fathers. At the Ciceronian, H. D. Hervey, "barb" 1886, was negative upon a discussion. At the beginning of this year the Sigmas and anti-fraternities combined and gave us very little show. What opportunities we do have we propose to make telling. We stand high with the faculty and the best citizens.

Our College has about one hundred and fifty students of which number about fifty are college students. Our paid up endowment is \$3,000,000. Our faculty numbers nine but two more (Modern Languages and Chemistry and Physics), will be added next year. We have about the highest standing of any college in Ohio, and are almost on a level, with the East.

Tell me about your chapter and institution. All the fraternity men here belong to the same literary society, the Franklin, how it is with you? What does Alpha Delta think of establishing a chapter at Nebraska State University? Our boys are favorably disposed. We have received Alpha Lambda's circular letter. She makes a good showing. All the Ohio chapters are in first rate condition except Beta and Theta. Beta is weak in numbers though what she has are good fellows I think. Theta is dominated by the wrong element. Every effort is being made to brace them up. If you write to them give them strong words.

WILL C. SHEPPARD, DENISON, TO JAMES R. MOOREHEAD, WESTMINSTER.

GRANVILLE, OHIO, Dec. 26, 1881.

Failing to receive any reply to the letter I wrote you a few weeks ago, I write again hoping to elicit a reply. Surely you are worked hard at Westminster, else you might have replied in seasonable time. It is of the utmost importance for each individual chapter to keep up its correspondence with its sister chapters. No chapter can be well informed if it depends wholly on its neighboring chapters or even upon the Beta Theta Pi for its general fraternity news. To stand erect and strong in the Grecian Sunlight every chapter must come into the closest possible contact with every other chapter. It is the life-blood of our fraternal

union. We are brothers and we should share each other's joys and sorrows, triumphs and defeats.

Separated as we are by great distance we can exemplify and fulfill the first of those three glorious words, only by the medium of the pen. But enough of chiding, believe me it is in the kindest spirit that I write these things. We are often constrained to say the same things to several of our chapters. But may I not confidently hope that you will speedily separate yourselves from that number? Alpha Eta's heart was recently gladdened by the reception of a quondam "barb" into his mystic circle.

The initiation was well carried out. We were assisted by Brother Rev. A. S. Dudley (Alpha '57 I think), C. F. Castle, Alpha Eta '80 and Pomerene, Ohio State University, '84.

The initiate was Garrett Ellison '85, Kansas City, Missouri. Pomerene gave us an extended talk about the proposed chapter at the Ohio State. The prevailing sentiment in Alpha Eta, is, that it is all important that Beta Theta Pi enter the Ohio State University. The institution has 300 students, endowment of \$300,000 or more and a fine farm besides, within the corporate limits of the city. Pomerene has four good men pledged, two in 1884, two in 1885. All have been spiked by Phi Gamma Delta and Phi Kappa Psi, the only existing fraternities. The Phi Gams have about fifteen men, the Phi Kaps six, leaving quite a good deal of material to select from.

Pomerene himself it tiptop, was a member of Alpha Lambda for one year and is a thorough Greek. A Beta chapter at Ohio State University would have fine alumni backing as there are about thirty Betas in Columbus. All the more active ones are heartily in favor of the new chapter.

I do not think we will vote for Vanderbilt. We do not think it good policy to establish *sub-rosa* chapters. But we are a unit on the Columbus affair. Theta is running a rapid course I think that—"soon life's fitful fever over"—she will be a thing of the past, a radical and absolute change may avert her downfall but if the present condition of affairs lasts, she is doomed. Do not be deceived by bombast! Beta is quiescent. Other Ohio chapters are in excellent trim.

FROM S. S. KAUFFMAN, WITTENBERG, TO H. HUMPHREY, OHIO.

SPRINGFIELD, OHIO, February 18, 1882.

I will write a few lines to Beta today. I have written twice to your former Corresponding Secretary but have received no answer. I understand that you had changed Corresponding Secretaries and I suppose that accounts for it. However, that be, it is highly essential to the welfare of B Θ II, that chapters situated as we are should be more intimate than we are, and I trust this will be the beginning of an active correspondence between us. I presume you have received the catalogue. That just takes the cake! Our fraternity shines brighter and brighter every day, and when I look and see how she stands compared with other fraternities I get on my knees and thank God that it has been my lot to be a Beta. Our chapter is in a prosperous condition and we have every reason to rejoice. Our rival has more men, but we have the best "rep."

L. H. LEACH, KANSAS, TO JAMES R. MOOREHEAD, WESTMINSTER.

LAWRENCE, KANSAS, Feb. 22nd, 1882.

We of Alpha Nu have been thinking of having a meeting of Alpha Beta, Alpha Epsilon, Alpha Delta and Alpha Nu at some convenient point, said meeting to be held during commencement week, at a time suitable to all the chapters. Now what do you boys think about it? The only thing that hinders such a scheme is finances, but if every chapter would work it up among their alumni so as to charter a car, it would not be expensive. Now I propose Kansas City as the point at which to hold said meeting. It may seem as selfish for it so near us, but it is not selfishness; there are several reasons in favor of Kansas City. It is the largest place West of St. Louis, and you could get as low rates to Kansas City as to St. Joseph, Cameron or Jefferson City, Missouri. Again there is a strong alumni chapter at Kansas City and they would probably do something for us in the way of hall rent, etc. If you know of any more suitable point let us know. This is simply a venture with us, but we hope everything will favor it as such a meeting would strengthen the bonds of Beta Theta Pi in the West. Two of the original founders Ex-Governor Hardin of Missouri, and Judge Linton could be with us. I

send the same proposition to the other chapters by this May. Think it over and let us know as soon as you can. June 1st and 2nd would suit us best, how is it with you?

GEORGE B. WATSON, KANSAS, TO H. HUMPHREY, OHIO.

LAWRENCE, KANS., February 25, 1882.

Alpha Nu Chapter still continues to remind the proverbial barbarian and the alien Greek that the soil of Kansas is wonderfully adapted to the production of the sons of Wooglin as well as to the production of the omnipresent canine.

The $\Phi \text{ K } \Psi$ chapter located here long since learned to look with courteous respect upon those who worship at our shrine, and now, I understand, we are to receive the homage of another Fraternity, but what its name is, we have been unable to determine exactly, however, from certain reasons we are now inclined to believe that our new rivals are the $\Phi \Gamma \Delta$'s and the oracle further informs us that they do not intend to run *sub-rosa* long, but will, in a few weeks give us a chance to feast our eyes upon their sacred emblem.

FROM CHAS. H. CAREY, DENISON, TO HENRY H. HUMPHREY,
OHIO.

CINCINNATI, OHIO, March 9th, 1882.

I wrote to you some time since but have received no answer. Are you still at Athens and do you still act as corresponding secretary for Beta chapter? I learn from the other chapters in the state that you are not in active correspondence with them. You sent out no circular letter and the fraternity in general has no means of knowing whether your chapter is still in existence or not. Will you be so kind as to write to me at once and especially answer the question I put to you. I want to know from you confidentially (unofficially if you please) just what your opinion as to the Beta's future is and whether you do not candidly think it best to allow the chapter to die out with its present members at O. U.? Write to me anyhow and tell me all about the Beta boys.

CINCINNATI, April 26, 1882.

Your letter confirms the opinion I had partly formed after reading Brother Wilson's letter—that it will be inadvisable to withdraw the charter of the Beta chapter at present. Indeed, I never have seriously advocated any such measure for present Fraternity action, though for some time my hopes of the chapter's improvement were almost at zero. Your letters, however, make me believe with you that time and the right kind of work by yourself and Brother Wilson and DeLematre may, and probably will, work wonders with Beta. There has been a new born "policy" much talked of in some quarters of the fraternity world, *viz.*, "to prune off all weak chapters" instead of pushing out in new directions. Beta chapter has been the subject of many a remark in connection with the discussion of this alleged "policy"—and perhaps rightly so. One thing that has been against you is the fact that to the fraternity at large you are entirely unknown except by hearsay—you never correspond with the other chapters, never issue circular letters, never write to the journal or have any personals or college news therein. All this makes it seem that there is no interest taken by any one in your chapter in fraternity matters, and coupled with the well known fact that the University is not any too strong itself, makes many a well meaning Beta boy look to your chapter as a good place to put in execution his ideas of the fraternity "policy." I am very glad that we can have hopes for Beta's future, the Alumni, and the past history of the chapter suggest reasons enough why we should have a chapter at Ohio University, even if the disgrace of having to withdraw a chapter, of increasing our defunct list, is not otherwise a sufficient reason for wishing to keep your chapter alive. I hope you will have quite a boom next fall, and that you will initiate a number of just such men as yourself and Wilson. I am sorry the latter leaves this year, but with DeLamatre's help you can get rid of the Mossback and get in some worthy recruits.

The Beta Kappa Chapter (Hudson) is very much dissatisfied that she did not receive her old name "Beta" instead of Beta Kappa. You ought to have your old name "Kappa." Have you

a charter giving you the name "Beta." Beta Kappa has not received a Chapter yet and wants to know why she can't be named Beta. What do you say?

ARTHUR PRESTON SUMNER, BROWN, TO THE WESTMINSTER CHAPTER.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., May 3, 1882.

I take this occasion of answering your epistle to Brother Harvey, who has turned it over to me as Corresponding Secretary, number two. I was much interested in reading your information about the college and the chapter there. You have a very easy time of it with only one rival to disturb you. We have five rivals, all of them ready and wide awake. The Alpha Delta Phi are the oldest established, as well as the strongest, having a fine reputation and prominent men to support them. They are getting lazy and careless and this year at least succeeded very poorly in the new men. The Delta Upsilon have the most men of any, but their quality is as a rule inferior. Then come the Delta Kappa Epsilon, Psi Upsilon and Delta Phi (the last recently re-established and very poor in its men). All the fraternities are on the lookout and when a good man appears, fight for him. And they keep up the contest too, one man who did not decide till Thanksgiving, being constantly besieged till that time by two societies. So you see we are on tiptoe from one year's end to the other. One or two of the societies pledges men living in the city several months before they enter and thus obtain great advantages over the others. However we are not backward and may make use of the same tactics if necessary.

You ask about our society work. It is mostly literary in character. We have a fine large hall, organ and considerable music, both paper and otherwise. We are quite a "literary crowd" and do some very interesting work, debating, symposiums, etc., with musical intermissions. Before our junction with Beta Theta Pi, we were a literary society, pure and simple, but now sociability and congeniality are becoming more prominent and in a few years we will be veteran "society men." The trouble here is, being in the midst of an exceptionally wicked city, sociability is apt to lead to conviviality and does in many cases. The Chi

Phi I spoke of, the Delta Kappa Epsilon and Psi Upsilon to some extent.

You wanted to know about our college. In its requirements for admission, and general scope, it is on a par with Yale and Harvard though not being so wealthy, does not afford so great a variety of studies: Chinese for instance or some other equally ridiculous study. But a man that goes through Brown is as well educated as a Yale or Harvard man except in the variety of studies. Greek, French and higher mathematics through freshman and sophomore year, Physiology, Chemistry, Physics, Astronomy, Rhetoric and a variety of electives as German, Political Economy, Botany, Zoology, etc., etc., Junior year and Senior year we have Intellectual Philosophy, History, Moral Philosophy, and large number of electives, Mathematics, Greek, Latin, French, etc., etc., making a very respectable list to say the least, (I obtained these items from the catalogue and they must be true.) We issue the *Liber Brunensis* every year, devoted to fun, attempts at wit, etc., some of which are very crushing. One man from each society comprises the editors and the societies dispose of all the books.

We are very much interested in base ball now and waiting for our nine to go to Harvard on the sixth. The Browns, Harvards, Yales, etc., have all played some of the league teams and are in fine condition for the contests. The professional Worcesters only beat us 18 to 10 and the Providence about the same. But I don't suppose you play ball out on the Western prairies, among the followers of Jesse James. I hope the famous Jesse was not one of our men. I suppose you live by train robbing, etc., and are really *very bad*. I forgot to say that about two hundred and fifty pupils enjoy the privileges that Old Brown offers. How many pupils have you?

CLARENCE S. LUNT, MAINE, TO HENRY H. HUMPHREY, OHIO.

ORONO, ME., Oct. 30, 1882.

We received the October Journal a short time ago containing the new addresses of the Corresponding Secretaries, and we can begin our correspondence. Although Beta Eta has never been one of your active correspondents, as we intend to correspond

with all the sister chapters during the ensuing year, we shall of course include Beta among that number. I think that keeping up an active correspondence with the sister chapters binds a chapter more strongly to the fraternity, and does it more good than could be accomplished by any other means. It is so in our case, and I think it must certainly be so with many of the other chapters. I saw by the October Journal that Beta was well represented at the convention. I was very glad when I saw that. I think that a chapter misses a great deal when she fails to send delegates to so important an assembly as gathered in Cincinnati. A good many hints are dropped by the older brothers that prove of much good to the chapters. And again, the report of the delegates of a chapter is worth much more than any printed report that can be obtained. The brothers of Beta Eta were not quite satisfied with the way that the convention treated the petition from Colby University. We think that had the character of both the University and petitioners been fully presented, and the matter given a thorough discussion, the charter would have been granted. We would like to hear from Beta upon the matter.

Beta Eta has been prospering finely this time. We lost eight active members in the last graduating class, but we have initiated five very promising young men this term which partially atones for the loss. We are congratulating ourselves on seeing so many good men in one term. We have fought for them very hard. However, our rivals made a desperate fight, but were left behind as usual. We are discussing the matter of a chapter house, and will probably begin building next summer.

LON M. SNYDER, KENYON, TO C. W. DELAMATRE, OHIO.

GAMBIER, OHIO, November 26th, 1882.

Yes! a letter from Beta, and gladly was it received, Beta Alpha congratulates you on your success. We had contemplated writing when we saw the report in the last "pub" but were happily surprised by a letter.

Old Kenyon is booming along as usual. We have on the hill eight active members, one alumnus and five "Barbs" with a prospect for increase next term. We have bright prospects of getting a man who has been bid by every frat on the hill. He is willing

to join us, all he needs is the consent of his parents, which, in all probability, he will obtain during the holidays. We are sure of an increase in "Barbs." We have taken in but one man this fall, Benedict "'85." "'86" has such a poor choice that we have taken none in the class, only one or two desirable men in the class. Very poor layout. We intend skirmishing some next term. Williams is the only one that lives in your section of the country. "Tillie" was one of our men, he was of the class of "'83." Glad to hear that the University is picking up. Hope she will keep it up.

Our rivals are in order of their strength. Delta Kappa Epsilon with eleven active members, two alumni and four "Barbs." Alpha Delta Phi with six active members, two alumni and one "Barb." Theta Delta Chi with five active members and four "Barbs," Delta Tau Delta with three members and lastly Psi Upsilon with no men in college but six "Barbs." It is rumored that the charter will be taken from the last two mentioned. It will be a good thing.

All the chapters which have been heard from are in good condition. We have been unusually successful this year, perhaps not unusually but a little more than usual.

JOHN MCCOY, WOOSTER, TO CLAYTON W. DELAMATRE, OHIO.

WOOSTER, OHIO, Nov. 27th, 1882.

Your letter was duly received by Brother Gooding but as he is very busy he has asked me to write in his stead. Your letter surprised and gratified us exceedingly for judging from what the general secretary said we had begun to think that you were neglecting all of us. Your chapter has been too valuable for us to lose and so we are all the more rejoiced that you are still in the land of the living. So after having read your report in the Beta Theta Pi we were the more confirmed as to your liveliness.

As you have not heard from us this year a brief description may not be amiss. Alpha Lambda numbers 14 men in all—2 Seniors, 3 Juniors, 2 Sophomores, 4 Freshmen, 3 Preps. You see we are well distributed. We are obliged to take in Preps., as the other frats do. Wooster University has within her walls B Θ Π, Δ T Δ, Φ K Ψ, Φ Γ Δ, Φ Δ Θ and last and least Σ X.

The rivalry between these is sometimes very exciting and leads to ill feeling but we Betas attend to our own business and don't concern ourselves with our neighbors' difficulties, etc. The consequence is that we are the best of friends with all of the frats but ΣX , which is hated by all. So friendly are our relations with the others especially $\Delta T \Delta$, that our chapter Base Ball Club played with the $\Delta T \Delta$, Base Ball Club and got most ingloriously beaten—12-1. Next spring we will beat them. After the game was over Alpha Lambda invited the Psi chapter of $\Delta T \Delta$, to an oyster supper. 17 $\Delta T \Delta$'s and 14 Betas passed a very pleasant evening in singing, playing and speech making. The kindest feelings prevailed and such a display of fraternal affection was never before witnessed in Wooster and in very few other colleges. It may be that the Pan Hellenic Council is not so far off.

WILL C. SHEPPARD, DENISON, TO C. W. DELAMATRE, OHIO.

GRANVILLE, OHIO, November 27, 1882.

I am sincerely glad that Beta has come to a realization of her duty as a chapter of Beta Theta Pi. I certainly wish you all success in your chapter work. I only hope that your expectations that the legislature will do something for Ohio University may be realized. It seems very unlikely however that the legislature will attempt to maintain two state colleges, especially when in the same section of the state. I'm afraid it would be rather disastrous to one or the other to have such a proposition submitted to a popular vote in the state. However, if you can get any juice of the legislature or any fodder from the public, go for it. I shall not begrudge you any of it. I am certain that the feeling exhibited toward Beta in the last convention was as much the outcome of the very low standing of Ohio University as of the bad condition of the chapter itself. There is a growing feeling throughout the Fraternity that it matters little how good a chapter may be, if the college it represents is not very excellent, we cannot afford to carry it. As you know we have chapters in many colleges of low standing. The chapters themselves are very good, or as good as circumstances will allow, yet the colleges are unworthy of them. Baird said last year of B H. "The chapter is

O. K. but the Institution it represents is far from being up to the Eastern standard." And so it is the whole country over. Alpha Eta will probably oppose the granting of a charter to Colby University. We have enough chapters and cannot afford to enter any second class colleges in the East.

W. B. SNOW, BOSTON, TO H. H. HUMPHREY, OHIO.

BOSTON, MASS., December 14, 1882.

Upsilon is prospering. We number at present ten; three Seniors, three juniors, three sophomores, and one Freshman.

Another Freshman is pledged. He will enter early in January and a third is ravenous for "dorg" but as he has been with us only three or four weeks, his metal is not tried sufficiently to warrant his election to Betadom. Our policy is to keep the chapter small and even, about an equal number from each class, *and have the best, or none*. In this, the tactics of our only rival, $\Theta \Delta X$, have warranted us. They stand with open mouth to catch the Freshman as he falls, and apparently a man and an initiation fee are the only things needful to secure an election by them. They fall upon the verdant Freshman in the hours of his youth, (had one man pledged the first day of the term) talk society with him till exhausted, he falls an easy prey. Our method is to let Freshmen know something about our chapter, then get personally well acquainted with each, and admit only men of proved ability, worth, and social talents. Thus we have a chapter compact, unanimous and most enjoyable.

A Chapter of Beta girls, $K K \Gamma$, was established last May, but the proximity of commencement prevented any formal expression of our good will, till early in this term, when a reception was tendered them, in the parlors of Brother Ed. Lawrence, at East Cambridge. Seldom has a more delightful evening been spent. Their chapter at present numbers fifteen, and $K K \Gamma$ and $B \Theta \Pi$, distinct in form, are one in principle and friendship.

A. D. COLE, BROWN, TO HENRY HUMPHREY, OHIO.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., April 19, 1883.

My answer to your letter of the 11th ultimo, has been somewhat deferred on account of our vacation, but I trust you will

excuse the apparent neglect. Things are flourishing with Kappa. For an account of the "union dorg," about which you inquired in your last, I refer you to the article on that subject in the March number of the magazine by Tolman, Kappa '82 as well as the Harvard letter in the same number. Things have been moving quietly in this corner of the Beta world since that time. A few weeks ago I visited Gamma and Eta Chapters. Both seem to be in good condition. At Harvard, I stopped with Brothers Ramage (formerly of Johns Hopkins), and Williams. They treated me in bang-up style, improvised a little "dorg" for my benefit, and "showed me the elephant" generally.

Base ball is *the* game here, as with all the colleges who belong to the league, and our fellows are taking a prominent part in it. All four of our freshmen belong to their class nine (and the class numbers over eighty). One of them, Gunderson, is proving himself quite a phenomenal pitcher, playing in the University nine. This afternoon he pitched a game with the Providence professionals (who you remember, came within an ace of taking the league championship last season). They only beat us by a score of nine to four. Seagrave, '85, another of our men, is on the University nine and doing good work.

In scholarship we excel also. We have *four* of the highest seven in '83, while no other secret society, Alpha Delta Phi, Psi Upsilon, Delta Kappa Epsilon, Chi Phi or Delta Phi have one within that number. E. C. Stokes will undoubtedly take the salutatory in the coming Commencement. In '84 we have four men in the first third, and six in the first half of the class. Your humble had the honor to receive a short time ago, the Howell Premium for highest standing in mathematics during first two years, and also the "Oratio Latina" at Junior Exercises given to the student who leads the class. The rank of our '85 and '86 men is not yet known, but will undoubtedly bring no discredit upon us. H. S. Babcock '74, our delegate, as well as poet, at the last convention, is at present supplying the place of Professor S. S. Greene, recently deceased, as instructor in Logic. The Beta world every man seems to prosper; sluggish chapters are waking up; fraternity extension is our watchword; the journal is growing better every month; the next convention is going to be a grand success; and "whoop her up" for Beta Theta Pi!

RALPH K. JONES, JR., MAINE, TO J. W. ROBBINS, HANOVER.

ORONO, ME., November 20, 1883.

Beta Eta is situated so far from the rest of the chapters that our members seldom or never meet them personally and so the greater part of our knowledge of them and their doings must be obtained through correspondence. It is my earnest desire therefore to keep in an active correspondence with all the chapters.

The men at Colby are still anxious to get a charter from B @ II. They are keeping up a good local society and have received the best men in the freshmen class, men that Z ♣ and Δ Y tried to get and failed. One of them has taken the Merrill prize. How does Iota feel on this subject?

We think the new style of the B @ II, a decided improvement over the old. How do you like it? This is the last week of the present term so we are now burning the midnight oil "plugging up" for examinations. Our standard for admission is too low so that it makes it hard after we get here. The standard for graduation is high and the graduates rarely fail to get good positions very soon.

Is there any talk of extension in the seventh district?

F. W. SHEPARDSON, DENISON, TO JOHN W. ROBBINS, HANOVER.

GRANVILLE, OHIO, April 6, 1884.

Yours came duly to hand and please accept thanks for the program. I have put it in our chapter scrap book. We are quite anxious to add to our collection and prize such favors as yours. The Σ X's have a world wide reputation for bumming and theft. Their Α Γ chapter stole some Φ K Ψ papers at Columbus, O. not long ago. I see their journal regularly and do not think much of it. Their last issue told about a combination against them by B @ II, and in the Cincinnati *Commercial Gazette*, a letter from Hanover in a recent issue there was mention made of a combination including B @ II. I was glad to see your flat denial of the charge in the March "B @ II." I disapprove of the combination business.

Your views on the eastern chapters are correct. I've been East and I know how it is and I think it is just as desirable and

more so, to withdraw a poor eastern chapter as to fire out a western one.

I think there may be a skirmish at Cleveland but I am going to vote out B H, A B, M and B K come what may.

I wrote to Baird about the errors which I noticed as I read the article and he said they were typographical errors, tho' it would take quite a dumb "devil" to make "Gamma" out of "Iota," unless Baird used Greek Letters—and if so the mistake is explained as, he is a poor Greek scholar, not having any Greek in his education. The A Σ X schools are poor and B. H. has *neither Latin nor Greek* in their college course.

The Σ X here, wrote to their dandy journal last fall that "B Θ Π is in a bad way—two of their men are conditioned and nine failed to return." Two who had very poor training in Latin grammar, couldn't keep up and were conditioned in Cicero or Virgil, but they are up on their feet again, and last week in examinations the Betas "flew high." Everyone doing well and getting high grades.

Contra, the President and associate Ed. of *Mu* chapter Σ X, was conditioned in '85 Greek (while his brother, who is a B Θ Π had the highest grade in Greek '87; their best man '86 flunked dead square in exams; one of their crack orators, F. R. Morse, '85, just scraped through and Sinsel '87 "got left" all around.

I don't suppose they will report that to their paper. Oh no! Blow is all there is to Σ X.

Well I must hasten—I would like to attend the Contest and Reunion; had intended to, but I can't now.

If there are any extra programs and B Θ Π banquet *menus*, send me some for our A H scrap book.

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